

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 3814.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1900.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—The THIRD MEETING of the SESSION will be held at 32, SACKVILLE STREET, PICCADILLY, on WEDNESDAY NEXT, November 5. Chair to be taken at 9 a.m. Antiquities will be exhibited, and the following Paper read:—
"Notes on a Rumble in South Devon," by T. CANN HUGHES, Esq., M.A.
GEORGE PATRICK, Esq., A.R.I.B.A. } Hon.
Rev. H. J. D. ASTLEY, M.A. } Secs.

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What man is there that hath a sickly child,
That doth not love it more than all the rest?
Thus is our grief for sorrow reconciled,
And larger love exalts the parent's breast—
The little sufferer is of all most blest,
For love and sympathy are dearer far
Than all the joys that other children share.

CXXXVII.

So every sorrow hides a central joy,
And with all suffering and pain'd under-song
There is a leavening mixture of alloy,
That more than compensates the seeming wrong,
For to all such far other joys belong—
A keener sensibility to bliss,
A finer insight into all that is.

CXXXVIII.

So Pain and Sorrow also have their part
In the great scheme of universal good,
Without them how refine the human heart,
Too soon elated unless these withstood?
So lightly do we flit from mood to mood,
We seldom see the sorrow of the thing,
Until the Angel Pity droops her wing.

CXXXIX.

And Sorrow is not only to refine,
For Love leaps up with tenfold sympathy,
To mitigate the suffering and the sin
That are a part of the divine decree,
In that foreshadowing of the life to be,—
Where Pity hath become an Angel grace,
And Sorrow shows once more a smiling face.

ON RELIGION.

CLCV.

But live the Christ-like life, and thou shalt know
Whether the doctrine be of God or not!—
What simpler answer could our Lord bestow?
How doth it lighten our poor human lot!
How soon are all our doubts and fears forgot!
For God reveals Himself in many ways,
Till Disbelief a Doubt of Doubt betrays.

CXCVI.

His laws are built upon Eternal Truth—
Truth that is evermore inviolate!
'Tis but the fashion of misguided youth
Infinite Wisdom to interrogate,
Youth irreligious, unregenerate!
But with each Spring a deeper feeling flows,
Lights with the Lily, reddens with the rose.

CCI.

What man is there would be afraid to die
If Christ should meet him in the way to-morrow,
And tell him of the shadow drawing nigh?
Dost think that he would look on Death with sorrow?
Nay, rather, would he not new comfort borrow
To know that Christ doth live, hath power to save,
That there is Victory even in the grave?

CCII.

And canst thou doubt that Christ doth surely live,
That Sun and Moon and Stars hold Him in awe;
Disorder never yet had power to give
The cosmic cycle, the Metonic law—
What other inference can our reason draw?
We feel the beat of His o'er-shadowing wings,
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THOUGH much has been told about him in all the books dealing with the anti-slavery movement and the Clapham sect, as well as in Sir George Trevelyan's 'Life of Lord Macaulay,' there was ample room for a separate memoir of the historian's father, and the historian's niece has filled the gap most successfully. By judicious selections from Zachary Macaulay's correspondence with no more commentary or supplement than serves to elucidate the story, Lady Knutsford has done justice to his memory and made a welcome addition to the records of the famous group of philanthropists, among whom Wilberforce and Hannah More may have been most conspicuous, but of whom he was, perhaps, the most business-like and self-sacrificing. It is scarcely too much to say that to his initiative and practical guidance, more than to any one else's, the negro emancipation, which he barely lived to see, was due; and there was more than the average of tombstone truthfulness in his friend Sir James Stephen's statement on the tablet in Westminster Abbey that, "resigning to others the praise and the reward," he "meekly endured the toil, the privation, and the reproach."

For the good work to which he chiefly devoted himself he was well schooled. Born in 1768, he had not only taught himself nearly all he knew, but had also been tutor to his younger brothers before the scantiness of the family resources necessitated his being placed in a merchant's office in Glasgow when he was fourteen. Two years later he went to seek his fortunes in Jamaica, where, as under-manager on a sugar plantation, he did his share of slave-driving, and, as he said, "even began to be wretch enough to think myself happy." From this "period of most degrading servitude" he was rescued by an offer of employment in England, and on his return, at the age of twenty-one, he

came under the influence of Thomas Babington, who had married his eldest sister, and of others, who drew him into the new Evangelical school in which they were leaders. These good friends also turned his West Indian experiences to account in the anti-slavery crusade on which they had started. In 1790 they sent him on a visit of inspection to the settlement for freed slaves which Granville Sharpe had projected at Sierra Leone, and in 1793 he went thither again as the assistant of Governor Dawes, to whose post he succeeded in 1794. The settlement was scarcely a success. The escaped or rescued slaves brought from America and elsewhere did not get on well with the natives on whom their company was forced; the missionaries were indiscreet when they were not dishonest; the white traders were tyrannical, unscrupulous, and generally slave-dealers; and to all the internal troubles of the infant colony were added the assaults of French rivals. Macaulay seems, however, to have shown exemplary tact and firmness, and when he finally returned to England in 1799 he became the right-hand man of the Sierra Leone Company, which the Government, as was then the fashion, endowed with administrative functions. The experience he had acquired, moreover, rendered him an invaluable associate of Wilberforce and the other abolitionists, whose victory in procuring legislative condemnation of the slave trade in 1807 was followed by the agitation that resulted in the Slave Emancipation Act of 1834. Having powers of memory nearly equal to his son's, he was a complete storehouse of information as well as a safe strategist. "Let us look it up in Macaulay," Wilberforce used to say whenever a reference was wanted, and, according to Sir George Stephen,

"his memory was so retentive that without the trouble of reference he could collate the papers of one session with those of three or four preceding years; he analysed with such rapidity that he could reduce to ten or twenty pages all that was worth extracting from five hundred; his acuteness was so great that no fallacy of argument escaped him, and no sophistry could bewilder him; and more than all, he was accuracy and truth itself. Every friend to slavery well knew Macaulay to be his most dangerous foe!"

As one of the most zealous members of the "Clapham sect" Macaulay took an active share in the starting and early management of the Church Missionary Society, the Religious Tract Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the National Society for the Education of the Poor, which was proposed as a corrective of the latitudinarianism of the British and Foreign School Society. He was also one of the founders in 1802, and for many years editor, of the *Christian Observer*. But in nothing else was he so much concerned as in the crusade against slavery. Both the African Institution, "for promoting the civilization of Africa," which was established immediately after the passing of the Slave Trade Abolition Act, and the first Anti-Slavery Society, which was really a more or less informal committee of enthusiasts which commenced the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* in 1825, were organized and managed by him. It was as much with the hope

of getting money with which to forward these public objects as for the benefit of his family that, on Sierra Leone being taken over by the Crown and his secretaryship of the company coming to an end in 1808, he began business as a merchant and shipowner, having for partner the son of his uncle Thomas Babington; and to his absorption in philanthropic work must be attributed the financial troubles to which he was exposed after he had left the management of the business in his cousin's incompetent hands.

About Macaulay's friends and the circle of good people—some have called them "unco guid" people—in which he moved much that is novel and interesting is printed in this volume, and it shows him in a more agreeable light than some of his companions. His friendship with Hannah More and her sisters, for instance, was put to a severe test in its earlier stage. In 1796, while he was on a visit to England from Sierra Leone, he made the acquaintance of Miss Selina Mills, one of their grown-up pupils, "regarded by them as a sixth sister," and quickly fell in love with her, though his intention was not "to draw any avowal from Miss Mills of the state of her affections" while there was a prospect of his spending several years in West Africa. This virtuous resolve was frustrated by what Lady Knutsford calls "some duplicity" into which Hannah More was led by "the anxiety she felt to spare pain to her beloved sister Patty, whose jealous affection for Miss Mills would, as she was well aware, brook no rival." Accordingly, when he went down to Bath to say good-bye to his friends, Miss Selina was kept out of the way while Miss Hannah "gave him to understand that the object of his regard was entirely indifferent to him." The plot failed, however, through an "unexpected occurrence," which Macaulay attributed to "a supreme direction":—

"The unexpected occurrence alluded to by Macaulay is said to have been his accidentally seeing Miss Mills in a room downstairs alone and weeping bitterly, having been carefully excluded from the leave-taking in the drawing-room by the strategy of the Miss Mores. The sight of her distress swept away all barriers of prudence. He gave expression to feelings which he had hitherto repressed successfully; and in the surprise and excitement of the moment, she responded with a frankness and warmth which assured him of the regard which he had inspired in her breast. A few moments sufficed to establish a complete understanding between them."

Macaulay's sedate love letters from Sierra Leone have an old-world flavour about them, but they furnish a good deal of welcome information about his West African occupations that might not otherwise have been preserved, and the marriage, which took place in August, 1799, was happy in every way. It caused no lasting quarrel with the Mores, nor, it would seem, was there more than a passing coolness ten years later, consequent on Macaulay's boldness in allowing some disparaging remarks about the priggish hero to appear in what was on the whole a highly laudatory review, in the *Christian Observer*, of Hannah More's anonymous novel 'Celebs in Search of a Wife.' The reviewer had dared to say of Celebs, "He is given to prosing, is not very delicate, and has a low suspiciousness about him that

is exceedingly unamiable." Whereupon the indignant author protested as follows:—

"I leave you to judge if every young lady, after this disgusting picture of the hero, will not be more than ever afraid of a 'religious' young man. How far it was prudent for the interests of piety to stamp this character with such an odious impression, others must judge; as well as how far it was feeling to hold me up to the religious world as writing indecently."

The pleasantest parts in Hannah More's letters, of which there are many, are those that refer to Macaulay's eldest son, the future historian, who was a frequent visitor at the Mores' house in Bath, and who was not ten years old when this was written in 1810:—

"I poke one line into Tom's vile scrawl to say that he goes on in the usual Pindaric style; much desultory reading, much sitting from bower to bower; Spenser, I think, is the favourite poet to-day. As his time is short, and health, I think, the chief object just now, I have not insisted on much system. He read in the sun yesterday and got a little headache. Since 'Childe Hugh,' a long poem on Hunt's election, really a good parody, has been shown us, I have discovered in the writing-box an Epithalamium of many folio pages on Mr. Spragge's marriage. I do compel him to read two or three scenes of Metastasio every day, and he seems to like it. His talents are very extraordinary and various, and his acquirements wonderful at his age. His temper is good, and his vivacity a great recommendation to me, but this excess of animal spirits makes some certain studies seem a little dry and dull. I will tell you honestly as a true friend, what indeed you know already and mentioned to me, that his superiority of talents makes competitors necessary for him, for that he is a little inclined to undervalue those who are not considerable or distinguished in some way or other."

Macaulay's later years were saddened by the death of his wife in 1831, and the financial difficulties for which he was not to blame, and which troubled him chiefly because of their effect on his children's fortunes. It was, Lady Knutsford tells us, "with the view of providing for the maintenance of his father and sisters, and for the professional education and starting in life of his youngest brother, as well as of making himself independent of office," that the clever first-born went to India in 1834. But she adds:—

"The incalculable loss which the absence of his eldest son entailed took the last remaining brightness out of Macaulay's daily life. The steady and affectionate assiduity with which his son had sacrificed more amusing engagements, and had taken pains to be at the little house in Bernard Street at hours when he was likely to find his father at home; the care with which he had studied to provide topics of conversation calculated to interest his father, and to draw off his thoughts from brooding over subjects of anxiety, had, almost unconsciously to Macaulay, given him an object in each day to which to look forward with interest. In consequence, the void which his son's departure made was very great, and the contrast in his demeanour was painfully obvious to those who were interested in his welfare."

Zachary Macaulay died in May, 1838, while his son, and also his daughter, Lady Trevelyan, were on their way back to England. A daintier epitaph than that which Sir James Stephen wrote for the tablet in Westminster Abbey was uttered by Gladstone in 1841:—

"I can only speak from tradition of the struggle for the abolition of slavery; but, if I

have not been misinformed, there was engaged in it a man who was the unseen ally of Mr. Wilberforce, and the pillar of his strength—a man of profound benevolence, of acute understanding, of indefatigable industry, and of that self-denying temper which is content to work in secret, to forego the recompense of present fame, and to seek his reward beyond the grave; the name of that man was Zachary Macaulay."

An Englishwoman's Love Letters. (Murray.)

BETWEEN the white parchment covers of this dainty book is contained as pitiful a story as is often told—too pitiful, indeed, to be told in bald prose. To be quite plain, we may say at the outset that we are not in the least deluded by the elaborate attempt to pass the letters off as the genuine productions of a real and recently living person. Not only are there obvious anachronisms in them—for example, the appearance of Tennyson's 'Life' is mentioned some months before a certain lunar eclipse, which is an obvious blend of the two of 1895—and what look like small topographical inconsistencies; these might in some cases result from careless editing. But it is difficult to believe that even in this unreticent age, when the interviewer seems to have for the time abolished that dignified reserve as to private life which the generation now thinking of lowering its sails was taught to deem a specially English virtue, people could be found so heartless and tasteless as to publish for the behoof of the circulating library these sacred, and in some cases secret outpourings of a friend's or kinswoman's heart. The mere perusal of them makes the self-respecting reader feel as a gentleman would do who had chanced unintentionally to play the part of Actæon.

The story is simple enough. A very young man—an Oxford undergraduate, as we gather—engages himself to a young lady six months his senior. They are comparatively near neighbours, but have seen little or nothing of each other till within the last year. Her attachment seems to have been a matter of first sight; his, to have developed somewhat more gradually. However, when the story opens with the first of her letters, their engagement is a settled thing. He, one cannot help suspecting, is the ordinary good-looking young country gentleman—"the common or garden Englishman," as she playfully describes him to a cousin, with what is meant for *eirowneia*, but is nearer to the truth than she supposes. She, on the other hand, is what a decade or two ago used to be called "intense," adores Mr. Meredith, reads much poetry (even Dunbar, two of whose best stanzas she modernizes—rather lamely, it must be owned—for her lover's benefit), has a pretty gift of expression, and some ideas not wholly commonplace. His mother—it would seem that he has no father living—does not take to her, though how far this contributes to the catastrophe it is hard to make out. The introduction tells us that "the root of the tragedy" is not explained in the letters themselves. This is, no doubt, part of the little mystification running through the whole book; but it is true that no definite explanation is offered of the reasons which induced the young man to break off the engagement after a few months. At the same time the reader feels that this

was the almost inevitable end from the first—another reason, it may be, for suspecting the fictitious character of the whole. In real life things do not happen in this obviously inevitable fashion. The poor girl's death, again, rounds off the story too appropriately. It is exactly what jilted girls do in fiction; in real life they recognize their mistake, and do not, as a rule, take long about repairing it. The last thing they do is to continue writing to the man who has thrown them over letters still overflowing with passionate loyalty, but never sent, and left to be "found lying loosely together," and forwarded after the writer's death. Who forwarded them? The relations of the woman who had been so basely treated? For to say that "to the memory of neither of the principal actors does blame belong" is absurd on the face of it. If the woman be blameless the man cannot without blame break his troth, though he be as credulous a fool as Claudio.

Still, as a work of fiction the letters have great merits, and will, there is little doubt, be much "gushed" over by young ladies (and some older ones) of the class that tries to combine culture with emotion. The anonymous author—who, it is safe to predict, will not long remain anonymous—has written a distinctly clever, if painful, study of character. Her mother would have cast it into verse, and, to end as we began, we are not clear that she would have been wrong. Some emotions are too tender to bear the complete unveiling of prose.

Milton. By Walter Raleigh. (Arnold.)

PROF. RALEIGH'S study of Milton may serve to dispel the misgivings which, in some readers, his recent essay on 'Style' evoked. The substance of that was full of clever and suggestive thinking; but its manner was certainly fantastic to the point of affectation. Perhaps it was an experiment, perhaps the result of temporary aberration or hypnotism. In any case, it represents a phase out of which Prof. Raleigh's strong native good sense has now led him. His 'Milton' is admirably written. With recovered simplicity, the English is still cared for, comely, variable, a ready weapon of finely tempered steel. Nor is the matter less excellent. Criticism has no more difficult task than that of resettling from time to time its deliberate estimate of those outstanding personalities of literature whose outlines the gathered comment of generations has half concealed. To see Shakespeare or Milton, Homer or Plato, for oneself, to distinguish facts from the shadows of facts thrown upon other minds, to isolate the consistent personality from the mists of incoherent conjecture, requires the exercise—fascinating but perilous—of no mean qualities. Prof. Raleigh has grappled courageously, and we think triumphantly, with his problem. Whether his individual judgments command assent or not, the sum of them is the work of a mind that has escaped the pitfalls of derivation and got to close quarters with its subject: "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower came." The temptation to belittle Milton is perhaps not considerable to a scholarly mind. "One abyss of ineptitude," says Prof. Raleigh, "still yawns

for the heroic folly, or the clownish courage, of the New Criticism." That of inappropriate laudation is more insidious. Prof. Raleigh fully recognizes Milton's limitations. There were certain reaches of the human spirit unattainable by him, which, amongst his contemporaries, not only Henry Vaughan attained, "a religious poet indeed, a visionary, a mystic, and a Christian; none of which names can be truly applied to Milton"; but even those "sons of Belial" Sir Charles Sedley and John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester. The chief thing, according to his critic, which has militated against Milton's popularity is his lack of humour. "Almost all men are less humorous than Shakespeare; but most men are more humorous than Milton." Prof. Raleigh himself abounds in humour. His analysis of the personages and conduct of 'Paradise Lost' is full of delicious touches:—

"Not all the dignity of Adam, nor all the beauty of Eve, can make us forget that they are nut-eaters, that they have not the art of cooking, and do not ferment the juice of the grape."

But humour does not warp his sober and serious judgment. He sees clearly that all the absurdities and incongruities of Milton's scheme are only further evidence of Milton's genius, which persuades our imagination to accept them:—

"He actually does produce 'that willing suspension of disbelief for the moment which constitutes poetic faith.' The less it will endure the trial as a system or theory of the universe, the more wonderful does it appear as a work of art. By the most delicate skill of architecture, this gigantic filamental structure has been raised into the air. It looks like some enchanted palace that has lighted on the ground for a moment, resting in its flight. It is really the product of the most elaborate and careful engineering science; the strains and stresses put on every part of the material have been calculated and allowed for. The poise and balance are so minutely exact that it just stands, and no more. But that it should stand at all is the marvel, seeing that it is spanned on frail arches over the abyss of the impossible, the unnatural, and the grotesque."

Prof. Raleigh's criticism plays so felicitously round Milton and his work, illumines him at so many points, that it is hard to know where to touch it in a brief review. His ultimate judgment of the poet as a whole lays stress on his aloofness, his comparative independence of the long evolution of English poetry which preceded him. He is singular and a solitary. Only to a small degree can he be called the poet of English Puritanism. 'Paradise Lost' can only be called a religious poem by a "dull convention." The spiritual and the metaphysical are alien to the "solid materialism" of Milton's heroic and epic strain. The theology of the poem is Arian, not Christian; the Son is represented as generated in time—"on such day as Heaven's great year brings forth." And its central interest, as others have pointed out, is undoubtedly not in the justification of God's ways to man, but in the tragic revolt of the hero Satan against

"a whimsical Tyrant, all of whose laws are arbitrary and occasional, and who exacts from his creatures an obedience that differs from brute submission in one point only: that by the gift of free-will it is put within their power to obey."

Such an argument, however splendid its epic possibilities, is "founded on an outrage done to religion." There is much truth in this view, but we part company from Prof. Raleigh when it leads him to controvert the well-known criticism of Mark Pattison, that "Milton has taken a scheme of life for life itself," and that the anthropomorphic theology of his poem alienates the interests of many modern readers who have shaken off anthropomorphism. Surely the judgments are consistent with one another. The ordinary reader of poetry is not a theological expert, and he does not think of asking himself whether Milton's Christology is so expressed as to be liable to the imputation of Arianism. Nor does he always see the change of purpose which the political sympathies of the old revolutionary half unconsciously brought about in 'Paradise Lost.' What he does, however, see is that, roughly, Milton's scheme of things is the scheme which Darwin and the rest have taught him to reject; and the poet and his theology go overboard together. It is doubtless the case, as Prof. Raleigh points out, that Dryden and Voltaire and the rest of Milton's earlier admirers were "not seduced into admiration by any whole-hearted fellowship in belief." The men of the Restoration were, perhaps, rather indifferent to the Puritan theology than in active revolt from it. Mark Pattison and those for whom he spoke were in active revolt, and hardly in a temper to look at 'Paradise Lost' with the serene intelligence of Prof. Raleigh. It was naturally a transitional point of view; nor is there any reason why future generations should not accept Milton's imaginings at their poetic value, with as much theological indifference as they feel towards the not dissimilar theme of the 'Prometheus Vincetus.'

Any adequate discussion of Milton must dwell long and lovingly on technicalities of "style." This may be admitted without altogether assenting to Prof. Raleigh's dictum that the structure and design of Milton's poems are but "the fringes of the subject," and questions of style the "essentials." The chapters here devoted to Milton's style are masterly, they exhibit both learning and literary insight. We cannot follow Prof. Raleigh through his detailed treatment, but here are some sentences from a passage in which he approaches nearest to a summary of the whole matter:—

"His style is not a simple loose-flowing garment, which takes its outline from its natural fall over the figure, but a satin brocade, stiff with gold, exactly fitted to the body. There is substance for it to clothe; but, as his imitators quickly discovered, it can stand alone. He packs his meaning into the fewest possible words, and studies economy in every trifle. In his later poetry there are no gliding connectives; no polysyllabic conjunctive clauses, which fill the mouth while the brain prepares itself for the next word of value; no otiose epithets, and very few that court neglect by their familiarity. His poetry is like the eloquence of the Lord Chancellor Bacon, as described by Ben Jonson: 'No man ever spoke more neatly, more pressly, more weightily, or suffered less emptiness, less idleness in what he uttered. No member of his speech but consisted of his own graces. His hearers could not cough, or look aside from him, without loss.' It is this quality of Milton's verse that makes the exercise of reading it

aloud a delight and a trial. Every word is of value. There is no mortar between the stones, each is held in place by the weight of the others, and helps to uphold the building. In reading, every word must be rendered clearly and articulately; to drop one out, or to slur it over, is to take a stone from an arch. Indeed, if Lamb and Hazlitt are right in thinking that Shakespeare's greatest plays cannot be acted, by the same token, Milton's greatest poems cannot be read aloud. For his most sonorous passages the human voice is felt to be too thin an instrument; the lightest word in the line demands some faint emphasis, so that the strongest could not be raised to its true value unless it were roared through some melodious megaphone."

This is fine appreciation, finely expressed. We congratulate Prof. Raleigh upon what we do not hesitate to call a beautiful as well as a stimulating book, one which suggests high hopes for the future of English criticism.

How to Choose your Banker. By Henry Warren. (Grant Richards.)

THIS volume is a curious mixture of information and random writing, rarely united in dealing with so serious a subject as banking. When the reader learns that it appears in a series of which 'Where and How to Dine in Paris' and 'How to Write for the Magazines' also form part, he sees at once what company he is in. The attempt to be smart commences almost at the first page, and continues to the end of the volume. The hints to the investor are sometimes ingenious, more often mere platitudes. To say of a bank that it feels a low Bank rate severely, that its shares "are certainly standing at an absurd premium," to speak of the same bank as a "huge leviathan... compelled to lash its unwieldy tail weighed down by the ponderosity of its own capital," may be smart writing, but will not assist the intending investors, who will search in vain in the chapter on the "Intrinsic Value of Bank Shares," or in the one on "Banks' Balance Sheets," for any information which might be useful to them. In place of information of this kind, abuse of boards of directors continually crops up in the book. Thus we are told, *à propos* of nothing, "there is no conscience in barter—neither is there in a board of directors." No man, according to the proverb, is a hero to his *valet-de-chambre*. To some of their clerks bank directors appear, no doubt, in a diminished light. Mr. Warren informs his readers that he has held the former position, and it might be guessed from the tone of the book that he has ceased to do so. That "banks were created for the sole purpose of returning good dividends to their members, and to that end alone," is the thesis maintained throughout. Certainly a bank which could not earn a dividend would not deserve to be carried on, but certainly also the banks of the United Kingdom have assisted their customers fully as much as their shareholders, for without their intervention the business of the country could not have been carried on. Some banks appear to have incurred Mr. Warren's particular animadversion. Nor is his praise much more helpful. He reduces his reasons for "choosing a bank" to five things, "To wit, the amount of its paid-up capital, of its reserve liability, of its reserve fund, of the proportion of cash held to deposits, and the

amount of its investments." Amongst the reasons not a word is said as to the characters of those concerned in the management or their business capacities. No doubt the ablest of men make mistakes, and directors are placed on the boards of companies who have no claim to be there. Still there is "balm in Gilead." Happily business power enough exists to enable Mr. Warren to "come to the conclusion that the majority of the English banks are carefully and prudently managed."

Mr. Warren is critical, and with some justice, of the large dividends which are announced on banking shares—18, 19, and even 20 per cent. These returns appear very attractive, but it must be understood that only few, comparatively, among shareholders in banks at the present time are in the position of receiving such ample returns on their investments. As a rule the present holders of bank shares have paid so high a price for them that the return they receive is only some four and a half per cent., or perhaps five per cent., which is not an extravagant sum if one considers the risks that exist in every kind of business. Had the banks profited by the advice given by one of the early pioneers of the business, Mr. Gilbert, and enlarged their capital in proportion as the returns on it increased, their position would be stronger than it is, and their shareholders as well satisfied. It is the same thing, of course, in this respect, whether 5 per cent. is paid on 400*l.*, or 20 per cent. on 100*l.*, provided the price is in proportion. The existing shareholder would receive an equal return for his investments, and the depositor with the bank would possess a better security. But the opportunity for doing this is past for ever, we fear. The building-up of the banking system of this country has followed the great growth of commercial prosperity, and, while it has been based on it, it has assisted the enlargement of the structure. The "no risks" principle, which Mr. Warren derides, is practically the only principle on which a banker can safely work for by far the larger part of the advances he makes. He is but a trustee, acting in that capacity both for the shareholders, of whom he is properly one, and the public. He is lending not his own money or that of the shareholders, which in nearly all cases barely suffices to provide the cash which a bank has to hold in the ordinary way of its business, but that deposited with him by his customers. For this he is virtually the trustee, and is bound to return it when it is asked for, hence it is his duty to see that he is in a position to do so.

Mr. Warren touches on the question of the clearing, and his remarks on this are among the most worth reading in his volume. As a clerk he disliked this part of the work and contrived to avoid it. The slight touches with which he refers to the strain on those who carry the clearing through represent a state of matters which requires attention. The difficulty of finding a site for a new structure of this class in the City is patent to every one familiar with the vicinity of the present building. It is with the structure that the improvement must commence, and it is to be hoped this may be carried through soon.

It is an ill bird that fouls its own nest,

and Mr. Warren, by the way he writes about the business and the disparaging tone he has employed throughout, has done his utmost to degrade the highly respectable occupation which he once followed. The mixed cynicism and persiflage which permeates his pages probably marks the extent of some personal annoyance. "Had I taken as much pains to be wise as I have to be witty, I should have been more respected in my old age," was the final remark of a once well-known *raconteur*. If Mr. Warren takes a higher line of thought in future he may write a book which may be useful.

A Life of Francis Parkman. By Charles Haight Farnham. (Macmillan & Co.)

PARKMAN was, as we said fifteen years ago, in the front rank of historians. His biographer rightly classes him among the pioneers "of the modern scientific method of historical research," adding that "he rarely showed any consciousness of his own thoughts, feelings, experiences or philosophy; he gave the story and that only." Again, "his pages are made up of facts, without either generalizations, sermons, sentiments, or personal opinions." His facts are set forth in such a way as to carry their own lesson. Indeed, he summed up in a short phrase both his own method and that which later historians have adopted when he told his biographer, in answer to a question with regard to French-Canadian life and character, "Describe them just as they are, and let the reader philosophize as much as he likes."

Mr. Farnham knew Parkman personally, and he is laudably anxious to make him known to the public, having received "all possible aid" from the surviving members of Parkman's family. The story which he tells is interesting; but, unfortunately, the amount of new information is very small. The purely biographical details have, however, been supplemented by a picture of Parkman as represented in his works, and a difficult task has been accomplished with sympathy and success.

Parkman's ancestors on the paternal side came from Sidmouth in Devon, and on the maternal from Boston in Lincolnshire. He was a native of Boston in New England, where he was born on September 16th, 1823. His father was a Unitarian minister who, from 1813 to 1849, was pastor of the new North Church in Boston, and, from 1819 to 1849, one of the Overseers of Harvard University. In 1840 Parkman went to Harvard; he graduated in 1844. He then entered the Harvard Law School, yet his heart was then set upon writing the 'Conspiracy of Pontiac,' for which he qualified himself both by collecting materials in manuscript and print, and by visiting the scenes of Pontiac's exploits. When a lad he found himself unable to buy a manuscript containing information about Pontiac, and he had some difficulty to get the requisite sum. This work did not appear till 1851. The care taken in its preparation is exemplified by the fact that the necessary documents covered 3,400 manuscript pages. A New York publisher declined to give it to the world on the ground that both the subject and the style

"foredoomed it to failure." Yet Parkman lived to write a preface to the ninth edition.

Before publishing anything he went to Europe for his health's sake in the autumn of 1843. He visited Sicily and portions of Italy and a part of Scotland, and expressed his preference for Edinburgh as a city, saying, "The view from Calton Hill is, to my thinking, the only city view I ever saw that deserves to be called sublime." Writing of London, he describes a spectacle which is now bygone:—

"I thought I had been there before. There, in flesh and blood, was the whole host of characters that figure in 'Pickwick.' Every species of cockney was abroad in the dark and dingy-looking streets, all walking with their heads stuck forward, their noses turned up, their chins pointing down, their knee joints shaking, as they shuffled along with a gait perfectly ludicrous, but indescribable. The hackney coachmen and cabmen, with their peculiar phraseology, the walking advertisements in the shape of a boy completely hidden between two placards, and a hundred others seemed so many incarnations of Dickens's characters."

After returning home he was impressed with the contrast between life in England and America, a contrast, however, which has ceased to be as marked owing to the increase during the last fifty years of a leisured class in his native land:—

"Where in America is to be found that spirit of sport and bluff hearty enjoyment that is seen in English country gentlemen and others? Business here absorbs everything, and renders people incapable of every other pleasure. Officers of the army and navy are sometimes an exception. There is an old retired navy surgeon at Medford, who lives with his dogs and his gun, like an English Squire, enjoying himself in the same hearty manner. Business, too, swallows much that is noble. The sometimes chivalrous sentiments, the reference of all things to the standard of a gentleman's honour, a certain nobleness (though it may be joined with debauchery and blackguardism) is found among officers of armies. Our business men, on the other hand, have narrowed away all this. Thoughts bent on practical gains are not pleasant to contemplate, no matter how much virtue may accompany them."

As a lad of seventeen Parkman had planned the literary work which was to occupy his life. He prepared himself for actual knowledge of the Indians at home, which was to be the beginning, by training himself to walk fast and shoot straight and endure fatigue. Even when a member of the Harvard Law School he added two courses to those prescribed, the one relating to general history, the other to Indian history and ethnology, and at the same time he studied diligently the models of English style. A sojourn with North American Indians and an outdoor life might, he thought, cure the weakness of his eyes, and he started in 1846 with these objects in view on the trip which he described in 'The Oregon Trail,' one of his most interesting and useful works. Though he had trained himself for the undertaking, the strain proved too severe, and the result was permanent injury to his health. He could not digest the fare upon which the Indians thrived, and returned worn to a skeleton. His biographer thus sums up the matter:—

"Suffering as he did from troubles of digestion, he was unable to sleep during the night; when at dawn he dozed off, exhausted, his guide had to call him to depart. Thus began the

insomnia that wearied him persistently all the rest of his days. From that time onward, during long periods of time, he would get but two or three hours of sleep out of the twenty-four; he had often less than this, or even none, and when four or five hours of unconsciousness came, he enjoyed an unusual blessing..... Inflammation and weakness of the eyes naturally increased with the decline of his general health on the Oregon trip. The disease never afterwards left him, though it fluctuated often, and diminished somewhat as he grew older. Still another physical misfortune was his to bear: rheumatic gout with effusion in one of the knees. Finally, the overstrain of his early life was most regrettable in helping to develop some inherited tendency to disorders of the brain and nervous system."

That Parkman should have performed so much enduring work as an historian, despite his bodily infirmities, is as noteworthy and laudable as the fortitude with which he bore his bodily sufferings. He seldom complained even when in great pain, and the references in letters to what he had to endure are few and slight. During an acute attack, when his medical attendant tried to encourage him by saying that he had a good constitution, he simply remarked, "I'm afraid I have."

In 1850 he married a daughter of Dr. Jacob Bigelow, and between that date and 1858 three children were born to him; one of them, a son, died in 1857, and his wife died in the following year. He went to Paris after his bereavement and spent the winter there. He consulted specialists in medicine, was warned by them against engaging in literary labour, and returned home rather worse than when he left it. Being forbidden the use and the writing of books, he turned to horticulture for an occupation, and added to his income by the sale of flowers. Indeed, his flowers were so fine that he often received first prizes for them at exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. In 1866 he wrote 'The Book of Roses,' which remains a standard work; and he was for a year Professor of Horticulture to the Bussey Institute. While desirous of writing the historical works which he had planned, Parkman did not consider the years wasted which he had spent in growing flowers. In an address as President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which he delivered in 1875, he said:—

"You have placed me at the head of a Society whose sole aim is the promotion of that gracious art which, through all time, has been the companion and symbol of peace; an art joined in closest ties with Nature, and her helper in the daily miracle by which she works beauty out of foulness and life out of corruption; an art so tranquillizing and so benign, so rich in consolations and pleasures, and one, too, which appeals to all mankind and finds votaries among rich and poor, learned and simple alike..... Horticulture, broadly pursued, is an education in itself, and no pursuit can surpass it in training the powers of observation and induction. The mind of the true cultivator is always on the alert to detect the working of principles and carry them to their practical application. To read the secrets of Nature and aid her in her beneficent functions is his grateful and ennobling task."

The late Mr. Blackmore would have recognized a congenial spirit in Parkman, who found in his garden a respite from his besetting pains, and employed what

mental strength remained to him in pursuing his self-imposed literary task. Aided by members of his family, who read to him and wrote at his dictation, he slowly prepared for publication the materials which he had carefully collected. An interval of fifteen years separated his 'Conspiracy of Pontiac' from 'The Pioneers of France in the New World'; but the series of works which he had contemplated was completed in 1892 by 'A Half Century of Conflict,' each of them being the best of its kind. In the introduction to his 'Pioneers' he states the principles which should govern the historian, and which he scrupulously followed:—

"Faithfulness to the truth of history involves far more than a research, however patient and scrupulous, into special facts. Such facts may be detailed with the most minute exactness, and yet the narrative, taken as a whole, may be unmeaning or untrue. The narrator must seek to imbue himself with the life and spirit of the time. He must study events in their bearings near and remote; in the characters, habits, and manners of those who took part in them. He must himself be, as it were, a sharer or spectator of the action he describes."

That he should have embodied his precepts in practice is less wonderful than that the admirable work to which this introduction is prefixed was composed under conditions hindering the author from "reading or writing continuously for much more than five minutes." Yet although a confirmed invalid during many years, Parkman was never a helpless one, and when sixty-three he was still able to enjoy at intervals the sports of his youth. His biographer was his companion for a month when both camped in 1886 on the Batiscan river. Mr. Farnham writes:—

"A delightful companion he was, interested in all the labours and pleasures of camp life, cheerful and patient in all circumstances. Despite his lame knee, he insisted on helping me complete the roof, the fireplace, and the tables we needed and in doing what he could of camp work. In washing the dishes he always used water far too hot for his hands, saying 'It's so much more effective'—a characteristic word of his. When I had chopped down some trees and cleared a little piece of land for a garden on the river bank, he gave the finishing touches to the soil and sowed the seeds. He had brought for the trip a Winchester rifle and a bamboo fly-rod. The mere possession of the rifle was the chief pleasure he anticipated from it, since he could not walk enough to do more than fire a few rounds in a camp at a target. He was a fair shot, even at that age and after so long disuse of firearms. Although a good bait fisherman, he now took his first lesson in casting the fly, and always thereafter showed much appreciation and respect for the fine art of angling."

He wrote well and he thought soundly. Few men in any country have equalled him in his treatment of historical and political problems. Such a passage as the following from the ninth edition of 'The Old Régime in Canada,' reminds one of Burke's choicest utterances:—

"There are no political panaceas, except in the imagination of political quacks. To each degree and each variety of public development there are corresponding institutions, best answering the public needs; and what is meat to me is poison to another. Freedom is for those who are fit for it. The rest will lose it or turn to corruption."

In fact, no writer in the United States has equalled Parkman in the grasp of political problems and the ingenuity of their solution. He had as few prejudices as is consistent with human frailty, and as much sympathy with his fellows as is possible to a perfect understanding of them.

He died after three days' illness on November 8th, 1893. His literary work was produced in defiance of physical and mental obstacles almost, if not wholly, unparalleled. Scarcely less difficult than the work which he accomplished is the task of doing justice to it and making him known and admired. Mr. Farnham has done his best, and we cannot blame him if he should fail to make every reader of his book acknowledge the greatness of Parkman.

The Book of John Fisher, Town Clerk and Deputy Recorder of Warwick, 1580-88.
Transcribed and edited by Thomas Kemp. (Warwick, Cooke & Son.)

For the publication in clear type of the old manuscript 'Book of John Fisher' the world is indebted to Mr. Thomas Kemp, Deputy Mayor of Warwick. Some time ago he also edited 'The Black Book of Warwick,' a mine of wealth for facts concerning municipal action and local history. Others had, however, previously printed various notes and selections from its pages, so that it was not altogether new. But 'The Book of John Fisher' is Mr. Kemp's own particular treasure-trove, and he has now introduced it to the reading public in a neat and well-arranged quarto volume, to which an interesting preface is contributed by the Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, Q.C. It is difficult for those who have not seen the original to estimate the value of Mr. Kemp's version. But one feels regret that the editor should hold the opinion—extraordinary in any historian—that "a bare list of names is uninteresting." Hence several lists and a few other notes have not been included in the transcript. This is a pity. It is always more satisfactory to a student that the transcript should be complete and that he should be able to read the unselected and unsifted whole. Otherwise he always imagines he might have been interested in the very things omitted. Further, Mr. Kemp, when he could not decipher words, has contented himself by running a series of dots to a proportionable length. But he surely might have sent facsimiles to experts, and obtained their opinion, or might even have reproduced the facsimiles in the text, that some scholar might by-and-by arise to make sense of them. It would also have been more satisfactory if marks of contraction had been inserted, or if the contracted words had been duly expanded. Longer notes on some points and persons would have been advantageous, and a fuller index is almost a necessity. Even the names in the "uninteresting lists" might have been included, to the satisfaction of some. For instance, the name "Shakespeare" occurs several times in the text, but does not appear in the index. Yet in spite of these slight drawbacks a debt of gratitude is due to Mr. Thomas Kemp for this introduction to a valuable document.

It is always interesting to peep into an old English interior, especially when it is painted in the simple and natural tones of an author unconscious of a public. John Fisher had long been Town Clerk, and several times member of Parliament, when the duty of serving as bailiff was again forced upon him in 1580. During the following eight years he seems to have kept a sort of official diary—unfortunately not a complete one, as he fails us more than once, just when we should specially like to know more of the events of his day. But he shows us, as no one else has done, the free-and-easy way in which suspicious-looking persons were arrested. Constables seem to have been in the habit of securing their man before they found their charge. If prisoners had no property, for that reason they were dangerous; if they had any, they had to explain how they came by it. He shows the severe cross-examinations by which they were frequently made to incriminate themselves; the importance to the accused of the animus or leniency of the accuser; the free hand of the magistrate in punishing or discharging, as he thought fit. Probably he saw no humour in the note, "No charge brought against them, so ponished them for three days and let them go." Such was the rough-and-ready justice of the time of Shakespeare, and John Fisher's remarks make us long for just such a book to have been preserved concerning Stratford-on-Avon. As it is, the book is not without its Shakespearean interest. It gives the geography of the district near Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon, and does not ignore Hinckley and Hinckley Fair, supposed by some to have been manufactured by Shakespeare for the convenience of Sir John Falstaff. It is curious that the name of "John Shakesper" should appear in an unexplained group on the first page of the volume. Traces of him appear later, showing that he lived in the Market Place Ward, and was assessed 1*d.* a week for the relief of the poor.

A certain Thomas Shakespere, shoemaker, made his will in 1557, leaving money to his children William, Thomas, John, and Joan. This William is generally presumed to have been the youth who was drowned in the Avon in 1579. Thomas is probably the "Thomas Shakesper" here assessed 1*d.* for relief of the poor in West Street Ward. (A Thomas Shakespear became in 1596 High Bailiff of Warwick, and married the daughter of the Bailiff of Coventry; and the only one of the name mentioned in the Visitation of 1619 was a "Thomas Shakespere, gent., of Warwick.")

John was supposed to have gone to Stratford-on-Avon, where he married Margery Roberts in 1584, succeeded his father-in-law, and played double to the poet's father, to the bewilderment of unwary students ever since. But here this John is recorded during years in which one is wanted at Stratford-on-Avon. Another Shakespeare, a turner, is mentioned casually as of Rowington, and John Fisher records:—

"Item, I paid to — Shakesper, servant to Mr. Humfrey Catheryns, for fees for the discharge of 39/7½ charged upon the church of St. Mary's in Mr. Boughton's account for subsidy supposed to be due in the 5th yere of Q. Elizabeth 9/."

But other and more general interest attaches to the volume. The very night of John Fisher's investiture (Thursday, November 3rd, 1580) divers suspected people came into the town and were examined next morning. The first case is that of Arthur Sackfield, who

"being askid of his conversacion said that he was a skoler in Mawdlen College in Oxford and had bene downe at Asheby delazouch in Leycestershire to seek his friends for exhibition, and shewed furth a licens under a seale in the name of Doctor Thoby Mathus, Vice-Chauncellor, licensing him with others to travell that cause for four monethes but being chardgid by the constable and an other witnes of some lardge speche that he had given towching officers, denied the same, and submitted himself to reformation."

He had only met his present companions by chance at an alehouse. He had no money,

"but trustid the next day to have gone to the preacher of this town and make his mone, and so hopid to have gotten somewhat of them and that therewith he would have paid his osts, and gone that day towards Oxford.....And so the said Arthur uttering some part of his skill in the Latten tonge, besought favour in respect wherof after twoo dayes ymprisoned he was let at large to goo towards Oxford. But being at libertie, and promising so to do, he went away as he saith to charlecote, where Sir Thos Lucy and others gave him v^s and so having money in his purse returned to Warwik at night and callid for good chere as mutton Rabets wherof knowledge being had he was again brought before the balief who seing his loosenes kept him agayne in some restraynt twoo dayes longer, and then bicause no matter of weight could be laid to him nor no man laid aught to his charge he was set at liberty uppon promise that the said Arthur would be at Oxford that next Fryday, which was the uttermost tyme of his licens."

Those he had consorted with were guilty at least of the crime of poverty. Anne Comb "being ponished for twoo days was afterwards sent home agayn into Gloueshire, bicause no man could charge her with any matter of weight."

A memorandum is entered on November 7th, 1580,

"that at the speciall instance of Sir Thoms Lucye Knight and solicitation of Blase Catesby servant to Sir Cristofer Hatton Knight, &c., sixe temesor carriages were mad out of this towne of Warwik to carry post rale and pale to Daventry to the.....use of the said Sir Cristofer to be bestowed at Holdenby."

The bailiff allowed 5*s.* each towards the charges.

The crimes alleged seem to have been chiefly concerned with property, horse-stealing, petty larceny, cozening, forging of licences and passports. Nonconformists in religion, runaway apprentices, and disturbers of the peace appear in their turn, but the bulk of the cases concern unclassified "vagabonds." The general impression left is that of light sentences: some are whipped and let go; others committed to gaol, not always a light punishment in those days when gaols were what they were; one is sentenced to be "executed," but that does not necessarily imply the capital punishment, as another of his class lived to relate details of "his practice in cosening, which yet he said he practised not since he had been executed as a roge, which was at somer sises." A runaway apprentice was heard,

and advised to return to his master to learn his trade. An interesting case between a combative landlord and tenant was settled by persuading the landlord to forgive his tenant five years' rent in order to live peaceably and be well spoken of, for the man was poor. One irrepressible aggressor, called Donghill, who had injured the face of an unoffending citizen in his shop, was presented as a disturber of the peace. But the prosecutor entreated mercy for him, in the hope of making a better man of him. Two nights after the young hooligan penetrated into the bedroom of the chief bailiff, who was sick, and "had just fallen into sleep, and he fell sodenly into a great fear and skreeched, being in fear of his life." The servants put Donghill out, but he broke into the neighbours' houses, and he was finally sent to gaol as a common "barreter." On July 18th, 1581, John Barwik, under suspicion of horse-stealing, explained that he had ridden forth

"to mete Mr. Fytton and Mr. Dillow being travelling into Ireloand, and met them at Sutton. And his business was to speke with Mr. Fytton about a legacy given to this examine by Sir Edward Fytton his late master, and at Sutton he spake with them."

Men in search of work at houses of known gentlemen, quacks who practised cures in known villages—all these lend local colour of their own. Mr. Reginald Brome, of Woodloe, complained that divers persons of the town had been hunting on his grounds, and prayed for justice. But, apparently, Mr. Fisher's feelings leaned to mercy's side, for in spite of Mr. Brome's indignation, he considered the guilt not proven, and only bound the men to appear at the general assizes. Mr. Kemp furnishes a long note on the Bromes, but omits the Prioress of Wroxall, associated with Prioress Isabella Shakespeare.

The right of Coventry men to free stallage, the fact that men were "digging coals" at Bedworth by September 18th, 1581—though it is generally supposed the mining industry there did not commence until 1596—are instances of interesting facts preserved in these pages. The sending of five soldiers to Ireland that year cost the borough 11*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, besides their armour and furniture.

The salaries of officials show the change in the value of money:—

"Paid to John Cowper, undersheriff to Mr. George Digby, for the fee-ferme of his bailiwick 100*s.*

"Paid to Edward Aglionby Esquier his fee for record of this borough for the yere 26*s.* 3*d.*

"Paid to William Shawe, serjeant at mace of this Borough, for his fee of Serjeantship 28*s.* 3*d.*

"Item, paid to Mr. Martin Deleyne, vikar of St. Mary Church, for his whole yere's salary 20*l.*

"Item, to Mr. Humfrey Weryng for his whole yeres stipend as vikar of St. Nicolas in Warwik 13*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

"Item, more to him for teaching the free Gramer scole the said yere 10*l.*"

On the other hand, four pounds ten shillings would seem to be a large price for the town to pay "for an ox bought of Mr. John Saunders and presented for this borough to my Lord of Leicester at his being at Kenilworth with certen French Lords this yere" (1580-1). They had later to find eight horsemen, by precept from Sir Thomas Lucy and Mr. Humfrey Peto, Commissioners.

The articles concerning brewers, bakers, maltsters, butchers, fishmongers, and innholders are preserved, as are a survey of the poor of the borough instituted at the complaint of the Rev. Mr. Cartwright; the number of the inhabitants assessed for their support; the taxation for the queen's household; and the condemnation of forestallers, regrators, and those "who destroy markets."

A deeper note is struck in the lists of the recusants after the statute of 24 Elizabeth c. 1. On August 28th, 1582, Richard Cam prosecuted Mathew Goodman for defrauding him, and was examined by Sir Thomas Lucy, in conjunction with Thomas Powell, bailiff, and John Fisher, steward. Many local names are mentioned. "And divers of Mr. Ardern's men bare them company in the alehouse of Minworth." The last query was, "And being asked where he had the Latten book which he carried about with him, 'Officiū Beē Marie excusū parisiis,' saith that a Welshman gave yt to him at Shrewsbury." Nothing further is said of this case. November 1st, 1582, Robert Chadborne, being asked about his absence from church, said he had been "brought up under Henry the eight and he mindeth to observe that order, and serve the Lord God above all things." He would not purchase his freedom by promising to go to church. Then comes a gap in the entries. Before they are resumed Edward Arden, of Park Hall, a former High Sheriff of the county, had been impeached at Warwick and sent up to London by Sir Thomas Lucy to be executed there on a charge of treason, based on his religion. We should have liked to know John Fisher's views on this and the inquisitorial action that followed; but he is silent. We are truly thankful, however, to him for what he has preserved.

NEW NOVELS.

A Gentleman. By the Hon. Mrs. Walter Forbes. (Murray.)

A DRESSMAKER resolves to bring her only son up as a gentleman, and by dint of strict application to business succeeds in sending him out into the world with an income of 2,000*l.* a year. An accident brings him into acquaintance with a conventionally unconventional young duke, and so into a smart society, with whose meals and conversation—both copious, but the latter amazingly rapid—the greater part of the book is filled. Raymond has been kept in ignorance of the source whence his expenses as a man of fashion and the rent of his mother's comfortable villa at Wimbledon are defrayed; but when the revelation is made by the inevitable accident—"How on earth did you get a portrait of my dressmaker?" the little lady exclaimed impetuously, as she turned towards Raymond, a framed photograph in her hand"—it does not seem to make much difference; and in these days one hardly sees why it should, unless, indeed, the fact of Mrs. White's trade being an honest one might not be to his credit in fashionable society. At all events, to the young lady of title to whom Raymond is engaged *non olet*; a short period of service in a colonial ministry removes any lingering taint, and we leave Sir Raymond White member for an English county, with every

prospect, in the judgment of his lady friends (whose ideas of the "fountain of honour" seem, by the way, somewhat vague), of being some day made a duke by "the Government."

A Daughter of the Fields. By Katharine Tynan. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

MISS TYNAN is a poet and a novelist. Her present novel gives no indications of the truth of the first part of this statement. Why should it? Still one somehow expected something rather different from 'A Daughter of the Fields.' It is just an ordinary novel about a girl who would be a farmer, and her friends and lovers. The French people and the letters they write do not produce the effect aimed at. It is a story of modern Ireland, and more than this need not be said.

The Yellow Man. By Carlton Dawe. (Hutchinson & Co.)

'THE YELLOW MAN' is a frightening enough story. Those who have, perhaps for no particular reason, suffered the terrors of the Chinaman from their youth upwards, will not find their fears abated. Long before the days of the Boxer and the vegetarian they alarmed one. Mr. Dawe's story is exciting, and to add to the pleasurable excitement, there is no woman in it, or "only a little one." That is to say, the feminine interest is so slight that it can hardly be said to count. From the time the man with the strange eyes questions the lad who tells the story as to his parents, the sense of alarm and mystery sets in. We say no more, but hope we have said enough to recommend the book.

The Love of Comrades. By Frank Mathew. (Lane.)

'THE LOVE OF COMRADES' hardly has the winning way of some of Mr. Mathew's stories and romances. Yet it has pretty turns of expression and manner, and a good deal of incident and out-of-the-way action. It never errs on the side of long-windedness and over-careful description. The effects and points are gained by better means. The central idea has been often appropriated. It is the adventurous maiden masquerading as a man in the troubled days of King Charles I. This motive is always rather difficult to treat. Mr. Mathew manages it in the main more successfully than many novelists have done. His difficulties are not, we think, decreased by making the heroine tell her own tale. Her task is to deliver to Stafford a letter from her father, who has been a friend of the great man's youth. Adventures are sometimes to the adventurous, and the girl has a mind attuned to them, yet a feminine nature as well. The love of friends and lovers, the bravery and dash of youth, and an undercurrent of sadness are all in the tale.

A Suffolk Courtship. By M. Betham-Edwards. (Hurst & Blackett.)

'SUFFOLK COURTSHIPS' would have been a much truer title for this Suffolk novel, for there are four at least (perhaps five) within its three hundred pages. Miss Betham-Edwards tells a story of the days of her youth, fifty years ago, at Westerfield; and

the four orphan sisters living together in Parva Hall have a subtle truthfulness that any writer from the Shires might vainly emulate. There is much of a prose Crabbe about the book; but there are a good many little items that one misses—Suffolk poplars and foursees (cakes eaten by hay-makers at 4 p.m.) and dumplings; batter puddings are a miserable substitute. Her dialect is not impeccable. "You don't seem good *tightly* hungry." "Your arms would ache good *tightly*." In both sentences the italicized word should be *tidily*. "Keziah" should not be a variant of Kezia, or "Mr. Callum" of Mr. Cullum; but an utter impossibility is "a Newdigate prizeman and Cambridge first class." The book, however, is one that may be safely recommended to all novel-readers in East Anglia, and to many in the world beyond it.

A Tragedy of Errors. By Geraldine Hodgson. (George Allen.)

THIS 'Tragedy of Errors' appears to be a protest against the unco guid in the person of a Miss Vibart, aunt to the heroine and victim. One wonders if such a thing were needed. We fancy this type of person no longer exists. Such people with their errors have long been at rest, and the story appears to be wholly modern in other respects. Injudicious conduct still exists, of course, and will continue to do so, but scarcely conduct of this kind. The niece Griselda was early driven into wrongheadedness by the aunt's system. The two were incompatible, irreconcilable from first to last. It ended in Griselda taking out her canoe when her aunt begged her not to, and getting drowned. The village and the household lamented, for she had been rather a nice child, but as she grew up we, personally, liked her less. Still it is sometimes a pity to create but to destroy, and 'A Tragedy of Errors' seems, in spite of some good points, rather purposeless.

The Lady of Dreams. By Una L. Silberrad. (Heinemann.)

THIS essay in fiction shows marked ability. There is taste and restraint in its composition; dialogue is used at the right points and in due proportion; and the setting of a scene where an important incident occurs is always well sketched. The subject is sombre. Much of it relates to contemporary life in the east of London, a quarter which has yielded very diverse results in recent fiction. Most of the characters are drawn in gloomy colours. With all these adverse influences, it is remarkable that the reader's interest is well and legitimately sustained. Did space permit we should have liked to quote a specimen of the author's style. Her previous publication, entitled 'The Enchanter,' gave rise to expectations which are by no means disappointed in 'The Lady of Dreams.'

Sons of the Covenant. By Samuel Gordon. (Sands & Co.)

THERE is not much to interest the general reader in this account of two Anglo-Jewish brothers and their relatives and friends. Born in London, they make their way in life with shrewdness, they show deep affection for family and tribe, they injure no one, and they prosper in their business and love

affairs alike. The book is rather a narrative than a story, conventional, long, and at times overlaid with detail. It will probably be found to have more interest for the Hebrew community in England than for the reading public at large.

The Mystery of Ladyplace. By Christian Lys. (Warne & Co.)

MR. CHRISTIAN LYS has nearly achieved the distinction of writing a successful sensational novel, but he has not been sufficiently careful to ensure success. In the first place, it is difficult to believe that a valuable pearl necklace could be stolen (presumably by a liveried footman) while being worn by a young lady in a ball-room. Secondly, it is scarcely likely that, on the loss being discovered, the thief—a professional thief, too—would sacrifice the proceeds of a daring robbery, without making any effort at their detention, by putting the jewels in the pocket of a guest's overcoat. Having, however, got over these initial difficulties, the reader finds himself in a very whirl of mystery, in which a luminous ghost plays an important part. In the middle the story drags somewhat, but towards the close it moves more rapidly and holds the attention better, up to the tragic solution of the mystery, a solution which is but the prelude to a triple wedding. One of the least convincing features of the story is the German doctor, whose badly broken English becomes distinctly irritating, and who is himself an unusual monster even as the creation of a writer of sensational fiction. Despite the faults here indicated, 'The Mystery of Ladyplace' is better than many of the blood-and-thunder stories produced by writers who have a certain vogue at the circulating libraries.

Mr. Boyton. By F. M. Allen. (Downey & Co.) KNOWING how excellent a humourist "F. M. Allen" is when at his best, one can only wonder how he could be satisfied with such poor fun as 'Mr. Boyton' affords. At some time between the present and 1905 an Irish-American millionaire, with a dash of some Spanish and other blood in his veins, is supposed to carry out a scheme by which Russia becomes a republic and Mr. Boyton becomes King of Poland after annihilating the German army with a touch of a novel electrical machine. Mr. Boyton and his friends are frank vulgarians, and the fun of the book seems to consist in the contrast between their cheery slang and plain manners and the pompousness and courtliness of sovereigns and diplomatists. It would, perhaps, be pleasant to be able to see the humour of this sort of thing, and possibly any readers who find themselves in sympathy with the author are to be envied.

La Faiseuse de Gloire. Par Paul Brulat. (Paris, Villerelle, Librairies Mathurins.) 'LA FAISEUSE DE GLOIRE' is the Paris half-penny press, which is as violently and as ably attacked in this novel as were medical men in 'Les Morticoles' by a better-known writer, and more convincingly. The story is painful, and furnishes a clue to the reasons which prevent any great literary journal from being able to maintain itself in France. Competent Frenchmen declare the picture to have in it too much of truth.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

THE late Mr. Stephen Crane was the author of a set of tales of, and mainly for, children which are now published under the name of *Whilomville Stories* (Harper & Brothers), illustrated by Peter Newell, and prefaced by a portrait, apparently a youthful one, of the author. There is no indication of the time at which the contents of the volume were written. Mr. Crane's first book was published in 1894, when he was hardly of age, and it was not until 1895 that his name became widely known. In the thirteen stories included in this posthumous volume there are no traces of the gloom and melancholy that marked much of his imaginative work. They are light and pleasant reading, though it is hard to say that they possess the characteristics which made the author's name popular on both sides of the Atlantic. They deal with children's romps and scrapes and the troubles which are occasioned to their betters. In tone and setting everything is American; and in one a nice point will be missed if it is not recollected that in America "boots" do not include the kind of foot-gear that the term sometimes implies here. The volume should attract attention among those who are selecting books as children's presents.—*A Sea-King's Midshipman*, by Mr. Arthur Lee Knight (Murray), relates, as a tale for boys, the adventures of a boy under Lord Cochrane. The slang seems to us to be a little modern—for example, "simply splendid"—and we do not believe in "tinned lobsters" or sardines in oil on the Pacific coasts of South America at the time of the blockade of Callao. But the story is classically perfect after its kind.

The Little Mimmers (Freemantle) is the title of five short plays intended and arranged for children by G. Meinertzhagen, but to our mind not always judiciously arranged, for "the persons of the drama" occasionally use language which, having been once learnt and used by parental sanction, might be reproduced when it would not receive that sanction. There is nothing really bad, of course, but it is sometimes too strong for home use.—*The Three Wishes*, by the author of 'The Peacock at Home,' is a quaint and Quaker-like little volume which contains only that one story in rhyme. It is illustrated in the homely, but realistic style of our grandfathers and great-grandfathers—a style of which we are glad to see the reappearance—and published by Messrs. Cornish, of Birmingham. The same firm have also reprinted *The Old Woman and her Pig* in exactly the same form as the preceding. The two tiny books have a charm that is all their own.

"It is cheating your stomach to put such food as that into your mouth," was a favourite expression of an old North-Country cook of our acquaintance when asked to eat some French dish which looked pretty, but was altogether unequal to the task of supplying nourishment, and it is cheating children's minds to set before them such stories as are contained in *The Ruby Fairy-Book* (Hutchinson). They are nearly all taken from foreign writers, but are ill chosen, and have not the true ring of fairy tales. The illustrations are by H. R. Millar.—*Fairy Tales from Afar* (Hutchinson) bears on its title-page the well-known name of Prof. Svend Grundtviig, and is a translation by Miss Jane Mulley of his 'Danske Folkeeventyr fundne i Folkemunde og Gjenfortalte.' The stories are good, and will be prime favourites with children, but their value from the folk-lore point of view is materially injured by the fact that Prof. Grundtviig has not been satisfied with telling them as they were told to him and his many assistants, but, to quote his own words, "his chief effort has been to give each tale its epic completeness, with its fundamental idea, and its own keynote." Folk-tales, however, if they are to be of any value, must not be meddled with. Having spoken our mind on this subject, we can only recommend the book as full of very

readable and rather new stories. The illustrations are by Mr. Sidney F. Aldridge.—*Wyemarle and the Mountain Fairies* (Duckworth) is a pleasantly written little book in which Mr. Edward H. Cooper tells how the heroine of the story and Marjorie, her friend, found that by putting on their heads wreaths made of blue gentians they could see the fairies who dwell on the mountains near Zermatt. Personally we dislike having to make the acquaintance of a new class of fairies, but children will no doubt envy the privileges enjoyed by the heroine. The illustrations are by Wyemarle herself and Mr. G. P. Jacob Hood.—*The Book of Dragons* (Harper & Brothers), by Miss Nesbit, at first seems amusing, but soon loses its interest, and we begin to find it rather wearisome from its straining after originality. The illustrations are by H. R. Millar, the decorations by H. Granville.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

MR. JOHN MURRAY has published a valuable and an interesting couple of volumes in *The Life of Abdur Rahman, Amir of Afghanistan, G.C.B., G.C.S.I.*, "edited by Mir Munshi Sultan Mahomed Khan." The first eleven chapters, forming one volume, are said to be, and the first ten undoubtedly are, by the Amir himself. The rest of the book is unfortunately put into the same form of a personal narrative, and this somewhat deprives it of authority, as it was not so written. The Odyssey of Abdur Rahman Khan before he came into his kingdom forms an excellent Oriental tale of adventure. We do not know why he is reluctant to mention, except incidentally, his long residence at an old castle near Shahr-i-Sabz. He states that he "spent eleven years altogether in" Samarkand, which is untrue. He says elsewhere that he went four times a year to Tashkend for amusement, i.e., to report himself to the Governor-General of Turkestan. When he starts for Afghanistan he is "joined by ten of my servants, who had escaped from Shahr-i-Sabz." Another piece of Oriental subtlety is to be discovered in the Amir's allusions to Daoud Shah, in which he suggests that that general, who, he says, "belonged to one of the lowest classes," had taken a bribe to incite the people to murder Cavagnari. The warmth of the friendship between Lord Roberts and Daoud Shah is probably the reason for the ferocity of this absurd attack, as the hatred of the Amir for Lord Roberts is visible throughout the book. The Amir conceals with care the residence at his Court of a (white) Government geologist from India, and he implies that no such European was at Kabul at the time. His account of the "Penjdeh incident," though given three times, is untrue. It first occurs in chap. xi. as written by the Amir himself, and again, in almost the same words, on the next page, in a footnote, as suggested to him by Mr. (now Lord) Curzon. Again, in the second volume it is taken down from the Amir's lips. "Mr. Gladstone was at that time the Leader of the Liberal Party" has a familiar sound. But Gladstone amazed his peace friends by making a most bellicose speech about Penjdeh and preparing for war. It was the Amir, as was shown in Lord Dufferin's despatch, who did not wish the "Penjdeh incident" to be kept open. When the similar "incident" of the spring of 1892 is related (vol. i. p. 286) we are not told that "Lord Salisbury was at that time the Leader of the Conservative Party." The Amir's account of his removal of the Kafirs who survived his march with fire and sword through Kafiristan to "a province.....where the climate is beautiful and the weather much resembles their own," while "Kafiristan has been largely populated by retired Afghan soldiers," reads as though written for the consumption of the Aborigines' Protection Society. The inscription set on a pillar in Kafiristan, "The inhabitants

embraced the true and holy religion of Islam," is at variance both with the statements just quoted and with the boast in the second volume that "other religions are tolerated and treated without prejudice—more even than the people of my own religion." The Amir makes a complaint against the Indian Government that they expelled "my officials" "by force" from the Zhob. The Amir was a party to an engagement by which he could lawfully have had no officials there. In fact, he lets out enough to justify the belief of the Indian authorities that he was at the bottom of the last frontier war.

For the sake of Capt. Mahan's literary reputation we regretted the publication of his recent book on the Boer War, and we regret that of *The Problem of Asia* (Sampson Low & Co.), a reprint of articles from *Harper* and the *North American Review*, of which one, on the "Transvaal dispute," does not come within the title. The essays are not particularly good, and when put together contain some repetition. A defence, against Lord Salisbury, of "missionary effort" in China, and a suggestion that "the Monroe doctrine" should be bounded on the south by "the valley of the Amazon," are the most noteworthy points. If Germany believed that the United States would not join with us to fight against German annexation in South America she would probably risk our fighting alone in defence of our trade, and count on our doing as we have done in China.

Life in Scotland a Hundred Years Ago, by James Murray (Gardner), is based on Sir John Sinclair's old 'Statistical Account.' It is a work that should have been much better executed or should have been left alone. Some of the ministers wrote extremely bad English. Here are two specimens printed by Mr. Murray:

"He went over to Ireland, where, having killed one of the most formidable freebooters of that country, Lord Antrim, as a reward, procured him a pardon";

and

"Going some time thereafter to Holland in prosecution of the same patriotic plan, the Popish faction, in his absence, laid waste his estates."

But Mr. Murray's own grammar is not impeccable. The worst chapter in the book is that upon the etymology of place-names. Redgorton is said to mean "red gore—result of battle of Luncarty"; but was there ever such a battle, or is it one of Boece's many inventions? Traprene-Law is the "hill where Queen Mary was trapped by Bothwell—trappe reine." When was Queen Mary ever trapped near Traprain? It is nowhere recorded in history.

The Western Australian Year-Book for 1898-9, by Mr. Malcolm Fraser (not to be confused with Sir Malcolm Fraser), in 2 vols. (Government Printer, Perth, Western Australia), contains no new features of importance except illustrations. There are some articles on natural history and geology by Mr. Woodward, the curator of the museum, the Government botanist, and others.

The Librairie Armand Colin publishes *Psychologie de la Femme*, by the late Prof. Henri Marion, consisting of lectures delivered in 1892-4, and meritorious. The general doctrine is that as civilization progresses woman becomes not less, but more different from man, though more his equal. The political part deals with Great Britain and the United States, and was accurate at the time when it was written; but the editor's notes take no count of the complete political equality for women now secured in South Australia, nor of the universal suffrage of New Zealand and of Western Australia. A book on feminism which ignores Christchurch, New Zealand, is behind the times.

M. FONTAINE, the able "Directeur du Travail" at the French Ministry of Commerce, has issued through the Imprimerie Nationale a thick Yellow-book, which contains *Statistique des Grèves et des Recours à la Conciliation et à l'Arbitrage survenus pendant l'Année 1899*.

Norway: Official Publication for the Paris Exhibition, 1900 (Christiania, Aktie-Bogtrykkeriet), in English, is a huge book, to which the only drawback is the mechanical one caused by the imperfect relation between contents and cover. It falls to pieces at once on being opened. The political portions of the volume, of the whole of which Dr. Konow appears to be the chief editor, illustrate the democratic nature of the Norwegian constitution, in which even the king's veto is, like the veto of the South Australian Council and of the Australian Senate, only "suspensory," and not absolute. A chapter on literature shows how little the Norwegian tongue is yet settled, as between Danish and popular idiom. The essay on "Hunting" should, if intended for readers on this side of the Atlantic, be termed "Sport" or "Shooting," as to an Englishman the word suggests the back of a horse. If illustrations were to be introduced at all, it would have been better to give the finest specimens of coast scenery.

A CHEAP edition of Blackmore's *Daniel* has been sent to us by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co.—*Digby Grand*, one of the best of Whyte-Melville's stories, has been issued by Messrs. Ward & Lock in their neat reprint of his romances. In their series of "Illustrated Romances," Messrs. Dent have produced a handsome reprint of *Peter Simple*, adorned with clever coloured drawings by Mr. Symington, and an introduction by Mr. Brimley Johnson, which is not, however, new, we fancy.—Messrs. Gibbings have brought out *Vathek*, with an introduction by Dr. Garnett—which also we have seen before—etchings by Mr. Nye, and Henley's notes.—Charles Reade's ablest novel, *The Cloister and the Hearth*, has been printed on fine thin paper in a nice clear type by Messrs. Chatto & Windus. This edition is most recommendable.—Messrs. Macmillan have apparently added to their "Illustrated Standard Novels," although this is not quite clear, *The Pathfinder* of Fenimore Cooper, and to their "Sixpenny Series," *Good-bye, Sweetheart*.

L'ESTRANGE's translation of Cardinal Bona's *Guide to Eternity* has been reprinted by Messrs. Methuen in their neat little "Library of Devotion." Canon Stanbridge has supplied an introduction and notes. The same firm have issued a pretty edition of *Eothen*. Some painstaking notes are appended, but the sketch of Kinglake's career might have been better.

MESSRS. DENT have of late brought out no more serviceable set of volumes in their "Temple Classics" than Mr. Hinds's translation of *Vasari's Lives*. Vols. IV. to VI. are before us.

Low's Handbook to the Charities of London (Sampson Low & Co.), a most useful little volume, edited by Mr. Dumville, has reached its sixty-second issue.

We have on our table *Lawyers and their Clients* (Effingham Wilson),—*Translation of Odes of Hafiz, 301-350*, by S. F. Mulla (Bombay, Gymkhana Printing Press),—*The Self-Educator in French*, edited by J. Adams (Hodder & Stoughton),—*Let there be Light*, by D. Lubin (Putnam),—*A Plain Examination of Socialism*, by G. Simonson (Sonnenschein),—*Life of General Charles Gordon*, by M. B. Syngé (Nelson),—*The Bravest of the Brave*, by H. Atteridge (Cassell),—*Under the Rebel's Reign*, by C. Neufeld (Wells Gardner),—*London's Peril*, by F. M. Allen (Downey & Co.),—*Poor Miss Smith*, by Vere Phillips (Drane),—*Up the Creeks*, by E. Shirley (Nelson),—*Little Lady Prim*, by E. M. Waterworth and J. Chappell (Edinburgh, Nimmo, Hay & Mitchell),—*The White Battalions*, by F. M. White (Pearson),—*A Hero of Romance*, by R. Marsh (Ward & Lock),—*A Japanese Maiden*, by A. M. Piercy (Horace Marshall),—*Fables in Slang*, by George Ade (Pearson),—*Barfield's Blazer*, and other School Stories, by W. E. Cule (Melrose),—*Days of First Love*, by the late W. C. Dix (Barclay & Fry),—*A New Study of*

the Sonnets of Shakespeare, by P. Godwin (Putnam),—*Poems*, by F. M. Lloyd (Stock),—*Lux in Tenebris*, edited by the Rev. W. Wingate (Stock),—*Studia Biblica et Ecclesiastica: Vol. V. Part I. Life of St. Nino*, by Marjory Wardrop and J. O. Wardrop (Oxford, Clarendon Press),—*What is Catholicism?* by E. Scherer, translated by the Rev. T. A. Seed (Richards),—*Pali Buddhism*, by H. H. Tilbe (Luzac),—*The Temple*, by the Rev. Dr. Edersheim (R.T.S.),—*Thoughts of a Free-Thinker* (Black),—and *L'Ermite Blanc et Autres Récits*, by C. Ricci (Paris, Delagrave). Among New Editions we have *Two Lectures on South Africa*, by J. A. Froude (Longmans),—*Chaucer to Wordsworth*, by T. Arnold (Murby),—*Health and Condition in the Active and the Sedentary*, by N. E. Yorke-Davies (Low),—and *Handbook of Practical Botany*, by Dr. E. Strasburger, translated from the German by W. Hillhouse (Sonnenschein).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

Bruce's (R.) *Sermons on the Sacrament*, Englished by Rev. J. Laidlaw, cr. 8vo. 4/
Coppée (F.), *Happy Suffering* (La Bonne Souffrance), translated by C. M. Welby, cr. 8vo. 3/6
Mackintosh (R.), *A First Primer of Apologetics*, cr. 8vo. 3/
Nye (Mr. F.), *The Beloved Son*, cr. 8vo. 2/6
Studia Biblica et Ecclesiastica: Vol. 1, Part 1, *Life of St. Nino*, by M. Wardrop, 8vo. 3/6

Law.

Elliott (A.), *The Workmen's Compensation*, cr. 8vo. 6/ net.
Fine Art and Archaeology.
Armstrong (Sir W.), *Sir Joshua Reynolds, First President of the Royal Academy*, roy. 4to. 10s/ net.
Art Journal, 1900, folio, 2/
Cust (L.), *Anthony Van Dyck*, folio, 10s/ net.
Davenport (C.), *Cameos*, imp. 8vo. sewed, 5/ net.
Hopwood (A.), *The Bunkum Book*, illustrated, ob. folio, 6/
Jackson (Mrs. F. N.), *A History of Hand-Made Lace*, 18/ net.
Perkins (T.), *The Churches of Rouen*, cr. 8vo. 2/6
Salon, 1900, and Decennial Exhibition, translated by C. Wason, folio, 5s/6 net.
Wenzell (A. B.), *The Passing Show, Drawings*, folio, 20/

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Agamemnon of Æschylus as performed at Cambridge, cr. 8vo. 2/ net.
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De Roo (F.), *History of America before Columbus according to Documents and Approved Authors*, 2 vols. 30/ net.
Gross (G.), *The Sources and Literature of English History from the Earliest Times to about 1485*, 8vo. 18/ net.
Hare (B. C.), *Memoirs of Edward Hare, late Inspector of Hospitals, Bengal*, 12mo. 5/ net.
Historical Register of the University of Oxford, cr. 8vo. 7/6
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Rahman (Abdur), *Amir of Afghanistan (Life of)*, edited by Mir Munshi Sultan Mahmood Khan, 2 vols. 8vo. 3s/
Reid (E.) and Coe (C. H.), *Capt. Mayne Reid, his Life and Adventures*, cr. 8vo. 3/6
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Straub (M.), *Congrès International d'Ophthalmologie d'Utrecht, 1899, Compte-rendu*, 18m. 60.

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ROGER BACON'S 'OPUS MAJUS.'

2, Park Place Gardens, Paddington, W., November 25, 1900.

I SHALL be glad if you will allow me to state that the supplementary volume of this work, recently published by Messrs. Williams & Norgate, may be had free of cost by purchasers of the original work on application to the publishers, who are instructed to return the purchase-money in any cases where it may have been paid.

J. H. BRIDGES.

"GRASS WIDOW."

MY father used this word frequently to my recollection at least fifty-five years ago in the sense of a married woman whose husband was away temporarily, e.g., who had gone to America or elsewhere, to be followed by his wife later on; also permanently separated, i.e., what would now be termed "a judicial separation." In fact, any woman whose husband was not living with her would—sometimes as a joke, and sometimes as a reproach—be termed a grass widow, and from its being so commonly used in South Lancashire in 1850, or earlier, I should rather think it is nearly one hundred years old.

S. WARBURTON.

A RECLAMATION.

PROF. F. N. SCOTT'S letter in a recent issue is most misleading in its suggestions—not to use a stronger term. I thought I had already given sufficient acknowledgment of my obligations in the note to which he refers. In revising a text palpable errors are sure to be corrected in the same way by any number of editors, and George Henry Lewes was not a man to give either Prof. Scott or myself many "chances." With reference to the question of notes, I may say that forty out of a possible sixty-seven deal with the placing of quotations in the text. When Lewes quotes from Ruskin's 'Modern Painters,' how is the fact to be stated? Prof. Scott simply states the book and section number; I went further and gave the page, carefully verifying each quotation word for word. It is thus evident that when the matter is looked into there are forty notes in which we are bound to give the same information, and I have shown that I give the reader fuller references. Of the remaining twenty-seven, when Lewes's own notes are deducted and credit given for those inserted on my initiative, as well as for the many supplementary remarks in those adopted, it will be seen that Prof. Scott's accusation of appropriating his work *in toto* is quite foundationless. The real editing of Lewes lies in the introduction, and I am prepared to have mine judged by the side of that of the Michigan professor.

T. SHARPER KNOWLSON.

M. VALFREY.

M. JULES JOSEPH VALFREY, whose death occurred at the end of last week, is a distinct loss to French journalism, for he was one of the comparatively few Parisian journalists who had a more than rudimentary knowledge of geography. He also had a full sense of responsibility in writing on foreign topics, whether above his own name or under the pseudonym of "Whist." He was born in 1838 at Montrond (Doubs); he obtained an appointment in the French Foreign Office through the Comte de Chaudordy. Although it is as a journalist that he is most widely known, having for many years been a regular contributor to the *Figaro*, yet a list of

his books makes a goodly show. Perhaps his most important work was the 'Histoire de la Diplomatie du Gouvernement de la Défense Nationale,' which appeared in three parts, 1871-5; he also wrote a 'Histoire du Traité de Francfort et de la Libération du Territoire Français,' 1874-5; and two volumes dealing with the diplomatic missions of Hugues de Lionne in Spain, Germany, and Italy in the seventeenth century. The first of these appeared in 1877, and the other four years afterwards. He wrote introductions to several books, and for a short time was Directeur of *Le Mémorial Diplomatique*. He was decorated with the Legion of Honour in April, 1870, and in 1876 was promoted "officer" of that order.

W. R.

THE DATE OF KING ÆLFRED'S DEATH.

Bamf., November 20, 1900.

I MUST thank Mr. Anscombe for having pointed out my blunder in dating Wilfrith's death on Thursday, October 12th, instead of Thursday, October 11th, 708. While altering the year I forgot to alter the day of the month. I cannot, however, plead guilty to having either advanced or acted on the theory that the dates in the Anglo-Saxon chronicles may be altered at will. The alteration of reading in the 'Winchester Chronicle'—A.D. 900 instead of A.D. 901 as the year of Ælfred's death—has been shown to be simply the rectification of a mere clerical error. If, as now appears to have been the case, the chronicler began his year on September 24th, as Ælfred died in October, the year is equivalent to 899 of our era. Again, the two events of the death of the great king and the coronation of his successor are stated by Æthelweard to have happened in the course of the same annalistic year, namely, that in which "factus videtur numerus annorum ab adventu Christi humana sumpta carne nongentesimus pleniter ordo." Mr. Anscombe would in effect render this as "within the year after the completion of the 900th year of the advent of Christ," a very roundabout way of recording a date, I must say. I still consider that Æthelweard's Latin simply means within the course of the 900th year from the advent of Christ, and, as he goes on to add, within the course of the one-hundredth year from the accession of Ælfred's great-grandfather Egberht ("jam defuncte annorum numero centeno ex quo proavus Egbyrht," &c. Note "defuncte," the year not yet being completed). Now when a writer dates an event by reference to a prior event, surely his own view of the date of the prior event must be taken, and not that of another writer who differs from him. Æthelweard dated the accession of Egberht in the year A.D. 800, wrongly maybe, but still so he did. "Ex quo cepit regnum rex Egbyrht.....ab incarnatione dominica anni octingenti (cccc)," 'Mon. Hist. Brit.,' p. 510. Mr. Anscombe, by making Æthelweard's hundred years run, not from his own date, but from the 'Chronicle's' date for the accession of Egberht, namely 802, and treating the century as past and gone (*defuncte*, not *defuncte*), brings the writer out as an authority for placing the death of Ælfred and the coronation of Eadweard within the computational year 901. I, however, again maintain that the best authorities give the year 900 as that of Ælfred's death. But if their year began on September 24th, as Ælfred died in October, the year becomes 899, according to our computation, and thus we get the date of his death to tally with the important datum that he had reigned twenty-eight years and a half, his accession having fallen in April, 871. As the Northern writers embodied by Symeon placed Ælfred's death in 899 with the twenty-eight and a half years' reign ('H. D. E.,' 71; 'Hist. Regg.,' 92), I ventured to suggest that perhaps they did not begin their years in September. Mr. Anscombe, however, disposes of this suggestion with regard to one of them by pointing out that an eclipse of the moon that

he tells us happened at 7 p.m. on November 23rd, 755, is placed by Symeon in the year 756 ('Hist. Regg.', 40), so that his year 756 must have begun in September, 755. Still, with all deference I may still point out the further fact that neither of these writers gives the actual day of the king's death, so that they may have overlooked the fact that, according to their computation of time, the year ought to have been given as 900. The words of the 'Hist. Dun. Eccl.' are worth giving: "Anno ab incarnatione Domini DCCCXCIX. piissimus rex Anglorum Elfredus peractis in regno viginti octo annis et dimidio defunctus est." I put it to the common sense of scholars if that is not substantial testimony to the effect that Ælfred died in 899. It is unfortunate, no doubt, that we do not know when the writers of the Anglo-Saxon times began their years, but the fault does not lie with us, but with the meagreness of their writings, which neither tell us when their years began, nor give us sufficient data to enable us readily to find out. The question can only be worked out by patient research. Meanwhile, as instalments, we accept gratefully the points contributed by Mr. Anscombe, namely, that the Northern writer of the year 755, above referred to, and Florence in A.D. 1016 show a year beginning with the Indiction in September. I do not know what to make of the entry in the Peterborough Chronicle which places the death of Cnut, that happened in November, 1035, under the year 1036, because the earlier Abingdon and Worcester chronicles, on which it is largely based, give the year as 1035, while in the later and purely original part of the Peterborough Chronicle the year clearly begins at Christmas, as e.g. the entry for 1066, which places December 28th, 1065, under that year.

J. H. RAMSAY.

JOHN BARBOUR VERSUS JOHN RAMSAY'S GHOST.

JOHN RAMSAY (not Sir John), poet-redactor, having died on the field from concussion of the brain, his ghost seeks to rise from the dust as simple redactor. John is no longer in the body, and, it seems to me, without John we have left to us only the rags of a paradox. However, I am charged with "carefully avoiding" the crux of redaction—I who denied its existence and disproved its leading alleged example in detail! So I must lay the quietest spirit of John, or of whatever other thing of hypotheses is proposed in his place. Mr. Brown starts on a difficult principle, perhaps not acknowledged by himself. I venture to crystallize it thus—not to accept as a fourteenth-century poetical text any line from a fifteenth-century copy unless its tenor be proved by earlier evidence. This is the inwardness of Mr. Brown's critical position, worthy of a geographical description as the criterion of Cambuslang. Studying history latterly only with the effect of aggravating his spasms of scepticism, Mr. Brown looks through spectacles of doubt, and chronicles to him are chiefly eloquent in what they do not say. Cheerfully he sets forth in his book (p. 92) to find a "reliable criterion" to test the 'Bruce,' and does so by comparing the two hundred and eighty lines quoted by Wyntoun with the texts of the 'Bruce.' He discovers (p. 74) variations and omissions: 'Bruce,' bk. i. (a) 134-5, (b) 165-7, (c) 203-4, (d) 213-14, (e) 217-74, on freedom, &c.; (f) 515-62, on Troy, &c.; (g) 566-88, (h) 609-11; bk. ii. (i) 29-30. These I understand him (74, 92, 94, 95) to set down to Ramsay, and thus the desiderated reliable criterion is obtained. Now it happens that in the middle of his citations from bk. i. of 'Bruce' Wyntoun interjected the words (viii. 177):—

Forthi said mayster Iohn Barbere
That mekill treftyd off that matere;

and resumed quoting. Mr. Brown, who talks to me of evasion, (1) omits this vital intimation of abridgment by Wyntoun in getting his

precious criterion; (2) proposes to set up Wyntoun's quotations as literal; and (3) ends by regarding it as noteworthy that decorative passages about Alexander, Troy, &c., and the apostrophe to freedom, are absent from Wyntoun, whose theme was the annals of Scotland. One begins at once to see how Mr. Brown's criterion works, for who but he could expect Wyntoun to quote the whole book? And who can imagine how disastrous the criterion would be to a mere literary work? Fortunately the 'Bruce' was history, and as such was quoted as mere literature never was. So the criterion explodes, for of the nine cases of "edited" variations from Wyntoun ascribed to Ramsay there is in 1449 actual corroboration of the authenticity of Ramsay's subsequent copy in no fewer than four instances. Bower paraphrased these passages, and Bower's Latin has the lines which Wyntoun dropped, so that Ramsay's copy was a true copy. The four passages of Bower are: (b) 'Bruce,' i. 165-7, "turnyt in wreth away"; Bower, ii. 147, l. 29, "eo cal(l)ide remoto"; (g) 'Bruce,' i. 579-80, "leding off all Scotland"; Bower, ii. 225, l. 31, "totius Scotie ducatum"; (h) 'Bruce,' i. 609-11, "bataucht the endentur"; Bower, ii. 227, l. 30, "tradidit indenturam"; (i) 'Bruce,' ii. 29-30, "quyt hym his discoveryng"; Bower, ii. 228, l. 15, "ad peregrinam satis remunerationem inferendam." Besides, even the reference to "This lord the Brwys" ('Bruce,' i. 477), round which Mr. Brown wriggles so, appears also in Bower, ii. 225, l. 5, as "Hic etenim Robertus de Bruce," without mention of kingship. Admittedly, I cannot bring other witnesses for the Troy, Alexander, Cæsar, and Arthur passages than the proof of the 'Alexander Buik' itself (pp. 403-6), and my booklet, pp. 4, 29, 30, &c. The postscript to the apostrophe to freedom is touched upon in my contribution to the *Furnivall Miscellany*. There remains only the Hannibal passage, on which, as usual, Mr. Brown establishes nothing against the 'Bruce.' Surely *divina miseratio* was well translated by "God's grace," and *militis* by "knights." My friend's objection to the latter is amusing. Perhaps he has not heard of the Middle Ages. His critics may care to look at Bower, ii. 157, l. 38, where "Hic Hannibal postquam vicit Romanos," introductory to the Scipio episode, answers exactly to nothing either in Wyntoun or Martinus Polonus, but translates 'Bruce,' iii. 208, "when Hannibal thaim wencusyt had."

The Ferumbras argument lacks all point; the story was well known in the fourteenth century, and the names fluctuated somewhat. On Thebes my friend's parallel of "nine-and-forty" with "fifty but one" is very neat arithmetically, being the precise figure of Statius, however it reached Aberdeen. They have always had fair repute as arithmeticians there. About Froissart one notes Mr. Brown's extravagant effort to hoist himself with his own petard and prove the use of the Vatican version, which Europe itself never knew, I believe, till Lettenhove became its editor. The four points of Mr. Brown's letter I answer: (1) Bruce's sepulture is mentioned by Wyntoun, viii. 3117, six lines before the citation of 'Brwysys Buk.' Must we go to France for it, really? Even at Cambuslang can we not believe that a chronicle-poem of Bruce would name his grave? (2) The port of Douglas's departure! Then, by the new reliable criterion, Berwick in the 'Bruce' follows Montrose in Froissart? (3) King Alfonso! Ramsay did not know this name and bungled it, or else he copied a bad reading ('Bruce,' xx. 338). He was, I believe, a notary and a faithful scribe. When he came to a word he did not understand he sometimes left it blank ('Bruce,' xix. 459, and Prof. Skeat's note). (4) Barbour's "kyng off Balmeryne" was Abū-l-Hasan, known as *Rex Balmarin* or *Balmarin* (king of the Beni Merin) in Spanish chronicle. The city of Seville ('Bruce,' xx. 326)

was Alfonso's historical base of operations against Granada in 1330. The "Mastir of St. Jak," too ('Bruce,' xx. 403), was one of his distinguished commanders, at any rate in 1340. How came Ramsay's ghost to supplement and correct Froissart? Not to wrangle with Mr. Brown, but for historical interest, may I suggest that the deathbed request of the younger King Henry to William the Marshal in 1183 ('Guillaume le Maréchal,' ed. Paul Meyer, 6891-926) was a prototype to the crusade legation of Edward I. (Walsingham, *sub anno* 1307), which in turn probably caused Bruce's? Jehan le Bel, as I stated in my letter, used Scottish chronicle. Barbour and Fordun, both Aberdonians, did so too, drawing on common sources, and perhaps on each other. Records of Bruce's reign appear to have been pretty full (Fordun, i. 341; Wyntoun, viii. 3112).

Mr. Brown simply indulges his fancy in asserting (1) that the 'Howlat' evinces familiarity with French chronicle; (2) that 'Wallace' shows, independent of the 'Bruce' medium, acquaintance with 'The Alexander,' either in French or Scottish; and (3) that David Rate wrote 'The Alexander.' He errs also, though I do not concern myself with 'The Wallace,' in assigning to 'Morte Arthure' the St. Andrew incident. Harry got that from Bower, ii. 170. Mr. Brown, not admitting the force of express utterances of Wyntoun, Bower, and others when flat in his teeth, yet can (p. 152) argue brilliantly from their silence. This he does by a series of suppressions (1) of Wyntoun's explicit reference (viii. 2923-30) for Bruce's reign to "Brwysys hys Buk"; (2) of his equally candid statement (viii. 3085), under the year 1328,

And ma thyngle I leve behynd
In Brwys Buk quhere men may fynd;

and (3) of corresponding apologies in Bower, ii. 231, 394, to which may be added actual citation of 'Bruce,' xix. 700-50, 788-89, in Bower, ii. 288 (variant reading in foot-note). Such things would of themselves have completely discredited the new criterion.

GEO. NEILSON.

SALR.

MESSRS. SOTHEY, WILKINSON & HODGE sold on Monday and Tuesday, the 26th and 27th ult., books and MSS. from the collection of the late Mr. Newnham Davis. The following were the most remarkable: Juliana Barnes's *Booke of Haukyng, Huntynge, &c.*, W. Copland, n.d., 39l. *Directorium Humanæ Vitæ*, Bidpay or Pilpay, first edition in Latin, c. 1484, 24l. *Brathwait's Ar't Asleepe Husband?* and *The Two Lancashire Lovers*, first editions, 1640, 50l. *Brant's Ship of Fools*, by Barclay, second edition, 1570, 20l. 10s. *Breviarium Romanum*, MS. on vellum, Sæc. XIV., 55l. *Breviarium secundum Usam Sacrum*, printed at the expense of Margaret, mother of Henry VII., on vellum, with the date in the colophon, which was not hitherto known, 1507, August 25th, 175l. *Breydenbach, Peregrinationes ad Montem Sion, &c.*, first Latin edition, with the original woodcuts intact, 1486, 60l. *Petrus Carmelianus, Poet Laureate to King Henry VII.*, Carmen (relating to the proposed marriage of Mary, third daughter of Henry VII., to Charles, son of the Emperor Maximilian, afterwards the Emperor Charles V.), on vellum, the only other copy known being the Grenville in the B.M., R. Pynson, c. 1514, 160l. *The Hyernerotomachia Poliphili* of Fr. de Columna, first edition, Venet., Aldus, 1499, 78l. *Thos. Decker's Satiro-Mastix*, 1602, 95l.; *The Dead Tearme*, or Westminster's Complaint for Long Vacations, &c., 1608, 31l. *Diets and Sayings, Wynkin de Worde*, 1528, 35l. B. Glanville, *De Proprietatibus Rerum*, Englished by John of Trevisa, first edition, a very fine copy, wanting a blank leaf only and having a few leaves

mended, W. de Worde, 1496, 212l. St. Jerome's Epistles in Italian, by Matheo da Ferraro (slightly imperfect), Ferrara, 1497, 40l. Horæ B.V.M., illuminated MS. on vellum (French), 18 fine miniatures, Sec. XV., 270l.; another, on vellum, with miniatures, Sec. XV., 145l. A Sarum Book of Hours, MS. on vellum, Latin and English, 12 miniatures, Sec. XV., 80l. G. Hormanni Vulgaris (Latino-Anglica), W. de Worde, 1530, 25l. Hortus Sanitatis, first French translation, Verard, c. 1501, 69l. Josephus, Antiquitates Judæorum, MS., tenth century, on vellum, 69l. Littleton's Tenures (Latin), the first edition and the first book issued by Lettoun & Machlinia in the City of London, c. 1482, 400l. Le Manuel des Dames, Paris, Verard, s.d., 100l. Historia B. Virginis Mariæ, fifty-three woodcuts, Absque nota, 39l. Massinger's lost play 'Beleeve as You List,' 1631, the original MS. from which the play was first edited by the Percy Society in 1849, 69l. Mercurius Britannicus (Parliamentary Newspaper), complete, 1643-45, 39l. Meschinot, Les Lunettes des Princes, Paris, J. du Pre, c. 1496, 30l. A collection of ten Ancient Illuminated Miniatures, cut from Service Books, 106l. Missale Maguntinense, P. Scheffer, 1483, 38l. Missale Romanum, MS. with illuminated borders, Sec. XV., 49l. Officium B.V.M., &c., MS. on vellum, illuminated, Sec. XV., 139l. Processionale Sarisburiense, Lond., 1554, 32l. Jo. de Thwrocz, Chronica Hungarica, first edition, 1488, 65l. Der Ritter vom Thurn, Basel, 1493, 41l. Geo. Whetstone's Mirrour for Magistrates of Cities, &c., 1584, 22l. Total of two days' sale, 4,168l. 12s. 6d.

Literary Gossip.

THE exceedingly interesting production of Ruskin's early genius 'The Puppet Show,' to which we referred on November 10th, will not now be put up to auction, Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge having sold it privately, by arrangement with the owner, to Mrs. Severn. Mr. Ruskin was extremely sensitive about his youthful attempts as an author, and had a perfect horror of their being in private hands. Mrs. Severn therefore felt that she was only carrying out what Mr. Ruskin himself would have most wished in purchasing 'The Puppet Show' and preserving it along with other juvenilia at Brantwood. The disappointment among Ruskin collectors will naturally be keen, but in this case each will be able to console himself with the reflection that his rival has not had the opportunity of outbidding him.

DR. JESSOP has prepared a new volume of essays, concerned mainly with parochial and Church life in England before the great breach with Rome and the Reformation brought in the new order of things. Mr. Fisher Unwin will publish the book shortly.

WE understand that some works which were begun by Dr. Neubauer before the failure of his eyesight will still be published by him with the help of friends. Among them are the 'Lexicon' of R. Tanhum, of Jerusalem, which is being taken in hand by Prof. Margoliouth, and an edition of 'Medieval Jewish Travellers' (Petahiah, Benjamin of Tudela, and Obadiah), which will probably be undertaken by Prof. A. Büchler, of Vienna.

'THE GOLDEN BOUGH,' Dr. J. G. Frazer's famous contribution to the study of magic and religion, has been revised and enlarged by its author till the original two volumes have grown to three in the

second edition shortly to be published by Messrs. Macmillan. The difference consists chiefly in the introduction of fresh illustrative matter, but in some cases this has materially altered the text. For example, in regard to the central theme of the book—the priesthood of Aricia—Dr. Frazer had to go as far as the history of ancient Mexico to parallel such a custom of killing annually a human god. But 'The Martyrdom of St. Dasius,' unearthed and published in 1897, makes it clear that in Italy a human representation of Saturn was annually slain at the Saturnalia, and that the practice lingered in remote places as late as the fourth century of our era. Again, researches among the native tribes of Central Australia have discovered magical ceremonies performed for the express purpose of rain-making at certain periods of the year, thus corroborating the interpretation advanced in the earlier edition of the ceremonies observed by the European peasantry in spring and midsummer and in harvest. Lastly, it should be noted that, whereas in the earlier edition no sharp distinction was drawn between magic and the lower forms of religion, Dr. Frazer now recognizes a fundamental distinction, and even opposition of principle, between magic and religion, and has reached the conclusion that in the evolution of thought magic, as representing a lower stratum, has everywhere preceded religion, though upon such matters he does not dogmatize.

ON Wednesday week Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge will sell an interesting library, namely, that of Major-General W. N. Waller, which was formed by Edmund Waller, the poet, and his descendants—chiefly by the latter, for very few of the books can possibly have belonged to the poet. Two only bear his autograph: a copy of the *Marnius Ovid* (Frankfort, 1601), which has his signature "Edm. Waller, £2 3/ 1673" on the first title, and the *Homer* of 1606, which has his signature at the end. Several have the initials "E. W.," which may indicate either the poet or his son. Apart from the Waller interest, at least two "lots" in this sale are of more than ordinary importance, namely, Grolier's copy of the Aldine edition of *Horace*, 'Poemata,' 1509, an untouched specimen from that great bibliophile's library; and a copy of the first edition of 'Waverley' in the original boards, uncut—a similar example realized 150l. in March of last year.

PROF. W. P. KER's Introduction to Berners's Froissart in Mr. Henley's series of "Tudor Translations" is in the printer's hands, and a first instalment will be delivered to subscribers before long.

MR. R. J. WILKINSON, of the Civil Service of the Straits Settlements, formerly of Trinity College, Cambridge, has presented to that University his entire collection of books in the Malay language, amounting to sixty-three manuscripts and about fifty lithographed or printed volumes. Malay manuscripts and some of the books are very difficult to obtain, and the old literature is perishing. In a few years the possibility of collecting specimens of it will have passed away, and Mr. Wilkinson has made a lasting name for himself among Malay scholars by his great

'Malay Dictionary,' now in the course of printing. The Malay manuscripts at present in the University library are only eight in number. Six of them have been there since the seventeenth century; the other two were added recently.

THE Guild of Graduates of the University of Wales has adopted a resolution in favour of establishing a new association, representing the colleges of Aberystwyth, Bangor, and Cardiff, for the purpose of organizing social and educational work on behalf of the working classes, and of boys and girls above the elementary school age.

THE winter meeting for teachers, to be conducted by the College of Preceptors in Bloomsbury Square, will extend from the 1st to the 10th of January. Twenty lectures have been arranged for, bearing on the teaching of linguistics, mathematics, and physical science.

THE Notingham Corporation has put forward a proposal—which, we understand, is to be submitted to Parliament in the form of a Bill—to the effect that the School Board in that borough should be dissolved and its functions transferred to a committee of the Town Council. The proposal is looked on in some quarters as likely to initiate a new departure in the organization of education.

THE son of a distinguished French Republican ex-minister, M. André Siegfried, is writing on New Zealand. He has already published an essay, reprinted from the *Revue Politique et Parlementaire*, which, though marred by many printer's errors, is worth perusal. M. André Siegfried's opinions on our colonial politics, like those of M. Pierre Leroy-Beaulieu and other "Liberal" Republicans, appear reactionary to most Englishmen, even of Conservative leanings.

LAST week's obituary contains the name of Dr. Mortimer Granville, formerly editor of the *Globe*, and subsequently connected with the *Lancet*.

THE library of the late Mr. Hamilton Bruce, which Mr. Dowell sells at Edinburgh on Monday next and the following days, will be considered to be of an unusually all-round character in these days of almost universal specialization. Mr. Bruce was a general lover, with a preference for certain classes of books, of which he acquired a large collection, comprising works relating to the life of, and controversy surrounding, the personality of Mary, Queen of Scots; a good selection of books relating to Iceland and Norway, and also Edinburgh; and works on angling, furniture, and bibliography. The library also includes a fine series of bindings by Derome and other celebrated workmen, and an extensive assortment of ballad literature.

WITH the beginning of the new volume in January *Temple Bar* will revive an old custom, in that it will contain the opening chapters of two serial stories by well-known writers—'The Firebrand,' by Mr. S. R. Crockett; and 'The Secret Orchard,' by Mr. Egerton Castle.

AT a session of the Berlin *Gymnasiallehrer-Gesellschaft* Prof. Mangold read a paper upon the poetical manuscripts of Frederick the Great. They disappeared in a mysterious manner in 1787 after they had been

used for the printing of his posthumous works, and have never since been recovered. Prof. Mangold has, however, discovered in the Prussian archives a series of hitherto unprinted poems, some of which he read to the meeting, and gave an analysis of the others. There are twenty-one longer poems, seventeen epigrams, and some fragments of verse. Amongst these he found the long-lost 'Epistel auf die Humanität' and the farewell verses to the king's sister Ulrica at her departure for Sweden.

THE verdict obtained against the *Daily Chronicle* last week, by a firm dealing in preserved fish, shows the urgent necessity there is for putting the law of libel on a proper basis. The *Daily Chronicle* is a paper of a high character that has during its career endeavoured to avoid malicious attacks on individuals, but its reputation did not avail, for after reading the papers juries apparently enjoy nothing so much as fining them, and the judge, like the late Mr. Justice Grove in the *Tomahawk* case, seems to have taken a view of the law which makes adverse comment on the part of a newspaper exceedingly perilous.

WE note the appearance, as a Parliamentary Paper, of a Digest of the Endowed Charities in the County of Radnor (14d.).

SCIENCE

The Birds of Ireland: an Account of the Distribution, Migrations, and Habits of Birds as observed in Ireland, with all Additions to the Irish List. By Richard J. Ussher and Robert Warren. (Gurney & Jackson.)

RATHER more than fifty years have elapsed since Thompson commenced his work on the 'Natural History of Ireland,' in which, for the first time, the ornithology of that island was treated in full. The information collected at that time was original as well as trustworthy, and when the difficulties of travelling in Ireland prior to 1850 are considered, the result fully merited the praise it received. Up to the present it has maintained its position as the standard work of reference upon the subject, but it was necessarily becoming more and more out of date, and an increasing band of Irish ornithologists, among whom the late A. G. More was the guiding spirit, considered that the time had come for a work upon new lines. The task fell mainly to the lot of Mr. Ussher, who had for many years been in the habit of visiting all parts of the island in search of information upon birds and their distribution, while Mr. Warren's contributions are the result of his special experiences along the wild cliffs, alternating with the sheltered bays, of the coast of Connaught. A third naturalist, Mr. R. M. Barrington, takes a high place in the rank of personal investigators, but his name could not appear on the title-page of the present work, owing to the fact that his available time was occupied with the subject of migration. However, his labours in connexion with the Migration Committee of the British Association from 1881 to 1887 inclusive are very apparent, as are also his specially acknowledged services in obtaining, at his own cost, records from Irish light-

stations for ten years more. The list of others who have contributed to the perfecting of the present volume fills an entire page, and the names of several well-known naturalists, sportsmen of the best class, and landed proprietors indicate the interest felt in a book which, in the words of the preface, "has been compiled by Irishmen to supply that information about the birds of their country which has been long and increasingly demanded."

It would be difficult to over-estimate the infinite capacity for taking pains displayed in this volume, and in saying this we are not limiting our appreciation to the amount of care bestowed upon the inspection and identification of specimens of the rarer species which have from time to time been recorded, and not always correctly. We are thinking, rather, of the care bestowed upon ascertaining the distribution in Ireland of birds which many fairly trained ornithologists might deem insignificant—such as the whinchat, which is very local, and the yellow wagtail, which is known to breed only in two districts more than 120 miles apart. These are the niceties of ornithology, and appeal but little to the taste of readers who wish to hear of eagles, falcons, choughs, and other showy or unfamiliar species, although the comparative difficulties of investigation in the former instances are as fishing with the dry fly in a clear Hampshire stream is to the whipping of a Scottish loch. Nevertheless, for those who do not care to dwell upon these finer points, there are plenty of field-studies of birds which are not to be observed at their breeding haunts by every one, such as the siskin—of the nest and eggs of which there is a beautiful photograph after Mr. C. Kearton—the crossbill, and the peregrine falcon, with an illustration of the eyrie, also by Mr. Kearton. The last-named bird is really abundant in Ireland, and its hereditary attachment to its eyrie is shown by the fact that High Island, off Connemara, is still inhabited, and was an ancient haunt when O'Flaherty wrote in 1684 that "yearlie an eyrie of Hawkes is found." Never has the appearance of this noble bird, when brooding on her eggs, been so graphically described, but this is not an ornithological journal, and we forbear to quote. As for the two species of eagle, the golden and the white-tailed, the latter has almost succumbed to poison, laid out nominally for hill-foxes, but mainly for vagrant dogs; while the golden eagle is only less rare because it will seldom touch carrion unless pressed by hunger. Another large bird of prey, the osprey, occurs now and then, but, strange to say, although Ireland, with its numerous loughs abounding in fish, would seem to be admirably suited to its requirements, there has never been anything approaching a credible record of its breeding in the country. Ireland is now, we believe, the only portion of the United Kingdom where the cormorant is still to be found nesting in tall trees, and a photograph is given of one of these situations.

As an instance of how "the many fail, the one succeeds," we find, as a record of disaster on migration, that

"Mr. Norman Thompson was returning from Bordeaux to Dublin, about May 1st, 1867, and after passing the Tuskar, he observed a number

of drowned corn-crakes, which he estimated at fifty, strewn in the water, from a point opposite Courtown Harbour until the vessel had passed Wicklow Head; the weather had been foggy."

The celebrity of Ireland for its woodcock-shooting is a matter of common knowledge, but it was only about 1860 that the breeding of this wader in the country became a recognized fact, and for another ten years a nest was looked upon as a curiosity in one district which is now annually frequented by fully a hundred pairs; and this increase holds good of nearly the whole island. In a measure this may be due to the increase of plantations, but inasmuch as the first laying of the woodcock often takes place in March, the prohibition of shooting in early spring has probably exercised a favourable influence. Considerable interest attaches to the account of the Irish specimen of the now extinct great auk (*Alca impennis*), which was obtained alive, and apparently in a half-starved condition, on the coast of co. Waterford in May, 1834; it is now in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, and is the only example known in immature plumage. At one time this species must have been not uncommon, for Mr. Ussher discovered among the sandhills of Tramore Bay, in the above-named county, bones belonging to at least six individual birds in the kitchen-middens he explored, and it seems probable that there formerly existed a breeding-place in the vicinity. Other remains have been obtained in kitchen-middens on the coast of Antrim, not far from Rathlin Island; and at present Ireland can boast of being the most southern country in Europe frequented by this remarkable bird.

The above are a few of the points which have arrested our attention in perusing this interesting book. It would be beside our purpose to enumerate the rare visitants which have from time to time occurred, many of them due to observations at light-stations under the auspices of Mr. Barrington; but a word should be said about Mr. Williams, the well-known taxidermist of Dublin, whose discriminating eye has detected among birds sent to the market several wanderers of the greatest rarity, such as the sociable plover (the second in the United Kingdom) and the pectoral sandpiper, with others of only less importance. The illustrations are numerous, and many of them are beautiful; there are two coloured maps, as well as a good index; and altogether the book is a thoroughly satisfactory specimen of conscientious workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

AN interesting account of the physical geography of the island Taiwan or Formosa will be found in *Petermann's Mittheilungen*, illustrated by an excellent map. The article speaks well for the scientific attainments of young Japan, for its author, Dr. N. Yamasaki, was one of the members of a scientific expedition organized by the University of Tokio for the purpose of exploring that island.

Baron Charles Erlanger and Mr. Oscar Neumann, having left Sheikh Hussein on July 7th, are reported to have reached the capital of King Menelik with valuable collections. They ascended the Gara Daz and Abul Hasin, explored the holy places in the vicinity of these mountains, and were thus able to add much to the information previously collected by Dr.

Donaldson Smith, Dr. Ragazzi, and Signor L. Traversi. Baron Erlanger now proposes to proceed to Lake Rudolf, whilst his companion, after a visit to Lake Abaya, intends to return by way of the Sobat.

The *Revista Portuguesa* has completed the publication of that portion of the 'Chronica' of Valentim Fernandes, the well-known German printer of Lisbon, which deals with the islands of the Atlantic. The statements made in this 'Chronica' are always interesting, although occasionally misleading. Fernandes is mistaken, for instance, when he tells us that Annobom was discovered by a caravel of Fernão de Mello, the captain of the island of St. Thomé, on New Year's Day, 1501, for Annobom is already shown on Behaim's globe. It is interesting, however, to be told that this caravel found there a negro, who, seven years before, had been carried thither from the Congo in a fishing boat. This statement confirms the views of those who hold that Annobom was not discovered by a vessel coming from the west or north, but by one availing itself of the equatorial current for making a westward passage. We hope the *Revista* will see its way to publishing further portions of this interesting 'Chronica,' thus supplementing the chapter already published by Dr. Kunemann. It is desirable, at the same time, that the maps accompanying it should see the light.

Mr. Ravenstein is responsible for *Philips' Map and Gazetteer of India* (Philip & Son), which is a way of saying that its execution leaves nothing to wish for. The frontier shown as that of India differs greatly from that shown on the orographical map of "Afghanistan and Beluchistan" lately published by the Royal Geographical Society as "compiled by Sir Thomas Holdich." In the latter Chitral, Hunza, and Kuram are shown in a no-man's land, which no longer corresponds with fact. They are rightly coloured by Mr. Ravenstein. In Sir Thomas Holdich's map we are puzzled by a line round "Gwadar" (Gwadar) which seems to make it Persian. It is time that Baluchistan, as a whole, were marked as British, which in fact it is.

Prof. Gregory, the Director of the National Antarctic Expedition, is expected to arrive in England to-day; not too soon, we imagine, for all he will find he has to do.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

THE planet Mercury will be at greatest western elongation from the sun on the 8th inst., and will be visible in the morning until past the middle of the month, situated in the constellation Scorpio, and passing about five degrees to the north of Antares on the 18th. Venus is still brilliant in the morning; she will pass during this month from Libra into Scorpio, and be in conjunction with the moon (then horned and within three days of being new) on the morning of the 19th. Mars rises now soon after 10 o'clock in the evening, and earlier each night; he is increasing in brightness, and passes during the month from the constellation Capricornus into Aquarius. Jupiter will be in conjunction with the sun on the morning of the 14th inst., and Saturn on the afternoon of the 29th.

A small planet which was photographed by Prof. Max Wolf at Königstuhl, Heidelberg, on September 20th and 22nd, was thought to be the same as No. 443, which was discovered there on February 17th, 1899. Subsequent investigations, however, have shown that it is identical with Virginia, No. 50, the second American small planet, which was detected first at Washington in the year 1857. Prof. Bauschinger remarks that No. 443 must be considered as lost. No. 353, discovered at Heidelberg on January 16th, 1893, has been named Ruperto-Carola by the Astronomische Gesellschaft, lately assembled at that place; and No. 386, discovered by M. Courty at Bordeaux on February 11th, 1894, has received the de-

signation Siegena from Prof. Kreutz, editor of the *Astronomische Nachrichten*.

The Rev. Dr. Anderson, of Edinburgh, announces the discovery of a variable star in the constellation Aquila, and of another in Pegasus. The former (which is near μ Aquilæ) diminished in brightness from the 9.2 to the 10.6 magnitude between September 18th and November 9th; the latter (which is on the borders of the constellation Equuleus, not far from the stars γ and δ) was of the 9.1 magnitude on September 26th, and had diminished to 10.1 by November 10th. Herr Köhl, of the private observatory at Odder, Denmark, has also detected traces of variability in a star situated near ω Cygni.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Nov. 15.—Lord Lister, President, in the chair.—The Right Hon. Sir Ford North, Prof. J. B. Farmer, Dr. P. Manson, and Prof. J. Walker were admitted into the Society.—Notice was given of the ensuing anniversary meeting (November 30th), and auditors of the Treasurer's accounts were elected.—The following papers were read: 'Argon and its Companions,' by Prof. Ramsay and Dr. Travers; 'Data for the Problem of Evolution in Man: VI. A First Study of the Correlation of the Human Skull,' by Dr. Alice Lee and Prof. K. Pearson; 'Mathematical Contributions to the Theory of Evolution: IX. On the Principle of Homotypis and its Relation to Heredity, to the Variability of the Individual, and to that of the Race: Part I. Homotypis in the Vegetable Kingdom,' by Prof. K. Pearson; and 'A Chemical Study of the Phosphoric Acid and Potash Contents of the Wheat Soils of Broadbalk Field, Rothamsted,' by Dr. B. Dyer.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Nov. 21.—Mr. C. H. Compton, V.P., in the chair.—The Hon. Editorial Secretary, the Rev. H. J. D. Astley, read an interesting résumé of the proceedings of the recent Congress at Leicester, which will be published in the *Journal* in due course.—Mr. Astley also read 'Notes on the Mound Dwellings of Auchingaich,' by Mr. W. A. Donnelly. The locality of these mounds is the north-west corner of Dumbartonshire, on that picturesque and mountainous belt which runs between Loch Lomond and the Gareloch, on the Auchingaich, one of the highest tributaries of the Fruin Water. These mounds first attract attention from their colour as well as from their configuration, the turf on their hillock surfaces being generally of a deeper green, and their outlines suggesting a more monotonous repetition of contour than is found in any natural configuration of landscape. They are grouped together in clusters of three and four or half a dozen, almost touching one another; as a matter of fact, many do touch each other. They form a border to a quadrangular space about 100 yards square to the number of over forty. The mounds are all more or less circular in shape, standing about 5 ft. high at the highest, but more often not more than 3 ft. 6 in. above the level of the natural hillside, and present a remarkable similarity to the homes of the beaver. Further off on the right bank of the Auchingaich Mr. Donnelly discovered another group, about 100 yards up the mountain side, of some seventeen or twenty similar mounds. Excavations were made in some of them, which disclosed the existence of boulder-built walls, rude and strong, each mound having a narrow doorway, with the jambs invariably in their original position, but the lintels displaced, and in two instances lying on the doorstep. The general characteristics of these mounds suggest the idea of their having been the homes of an early pigmy race.—In the discussion following the paper the Chairman, Mr. Folkard, the Rev. H. J. D. Astley, and others took part. Various opinions were expressed as to the probable value of the discovery, but all agreed in attributing the construction of the mounds to human hands, but by whom, for what purpose, and at what period they were constructed it is impossible to say with the data at present furnished. Further exploration, which will be undertaken in due course, may enable archaeologists to arrive at a definite conclusion.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 20.—Dr. W. T. Blanford, V.P., in the chair.—The Secretary read a report on the additions to the menagerie in five previous months, calling attention to the following acquisitions: a young male Rocky Mountain goat (*Haploceros montanus*); five gentoo penguins (*Pygoscelis taniatus*); three white ibises (*Eudocimus albus*), bred in the menagerie on June 13th; a young female brindled gnu (*Connochaetes taurina*), born in the Gardens on July 14th; four red-collared lorikeets (*Trichoglossus rubitorques*), deposited on July 27th;

a Ludwig's bustard (*Eupodotis ludwigii*), presented by Mr. J. E. Matcham; and a Bouquet's amazon (*Chrysotis bouqueti*). The Secretary also made remarks on objects he noticed in visiting the Zoological Gardens of Hamburg, Berlin, Hanover, and Rotterdam during the vacation.—An extract was read from a letter from Sir Harry Johnston containing indications of a supposed new species of the horse family (Equidæ) which appeared to inhabit the Great Congo Forest, near the Semliki river, East Africa.—Mr. G. A. Boulenger exhibited and made remarks on one of the type specimens of a new species of *Protopterus* from the Congo, for which he had proposed the name of *Protopterus dollai*.—Mr. F. E. Beddard read a paper on 'The Osteology of the Pigmy Whale (*Neobalaena marginata*). A detailed description of the skeleton was given, and the features in which it differed from that of other known forms of the cetaceans were pointed out.—Prof. Howes, on behalf of Prof. Baldwin Spencer, gave a description of *Wynyardia bassiana*, a fossil marsupial from the Tertiary beds of Table Cape, Tasmania. It was remarkable as being the first fossil marsupial obtained from the Tertiaries of Australia, and appeared to be a Polyprotodont, having affinities with the Didelphyid, Dasyurid, and Phalangistid series, which had probably struck off from the rootstock at the period at which the Diprotodonts were in course of evolution.—A communication was read from Mr. L. A. Borradaile on a collection of Arthropods and Barnacles from the South Pacific. Eight species were enumerated, including four species of Barnacles, of which one, *Lithotriga pacifica*, was described as new; two species of Isopods, including a new Armadillidium (*A. pacificum*); an Amphipod; and a Leptochelia, sp. inc.—Mr. Oldfield Thomas read a paper on the mammals obtained by Dr. Donaldson Smith during his latest expedition. Twenty-three species were enumerated, and the following five forms described as new: *Cercopithecus omensis*, like *C. albicularis*, but much smaller; *Colobus abyssinicus polivorus*, differing from the true *C. guæza* in its grey tail; *Macrosclerides boranus*, coloured like *M. rufescens*, but with the broad-fronted skull of *M. revoili*; *Madagaca guentheri smithii*, like the typical *M. guentheri*, but considerably larger; and *Gazella granti brighti*, a pale form of Grant's gazelle, with no dark stripes at any age. Dr. Smith had also obtained some fine examples of the true bohor of Rüppell (*Cervicapra bohor*) and of the bush-buck described by Heuglin as *Tragelaphus bor*, which proved to be a tenable sub-species of *T. scriptus*.—Mr. W. L. Distant read a paper on the Rhynchota belonging to the family Pentatomide in the Hope Collection at Oxford.—A communication was read from Mr. R. C. Punnett on the Nemertean collected by Prof. Haddon in Torres Straits. They comprised examples of seven species, four of which had been previously described, i.e., *Eupolia melanogramma* (= *quinquefasciata*, Bürger), *E. delineata*, *Lincus albobittatus*, and *L. coloratus*; whilst the remaining three were new, viz., *Cerebratulus hadoni*, *C. queenslandicus*, and *C. torresianus*. In *C. queenslandicus* there were two longitudinal patches laterally situated, where the cubis glands are more highly developed, and are crowded with small bodies closely resembling the rhabdites of Turbellaria. The single specimen of *Eupolia melanogramma* obtained was remarkable for its great size. Measuring roughly two yards in length and three-quarters of an inch in breadth when preserved, it was with a single exception (*Cerebratulus lacteus*, Verrill) probably the most massive Nemertean which had been observed. The paper gave morphological details of the structure of the three new species.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Nov. 22.—Mr. W. Gowland, V.P., in the chair.—A paper was read by Messrs. MacIver and Wilkin on their Algerian journey. The main object of the journey was to investigate the evidence for the Libyan origin of Prof. F. Petrie's "New Race." The districts especially investigated were the Aurès Mountains, inhabited by the Chawia, and Kabylia, and a large number of lantern-slides were secured, which were exhibited in illustration of the paper. The manufacture of pottery was described in detail. The readers considered that the identity of one class of Kabyle ware with that of prehistoric Egypt in respect of colour, technique, and details of ornament, as well as numerous coincidences of form, proved the close culture-connexion of the ancestors of the Berbers with prehistoric Egypt. Other classes of pottery seemed to have been directly derived from or communicated to Cyprus. Turning to questions of anthropography, the readers showed that the Berbers are essentially a white race, with brown-black hair and hazel eyes, and a skin which is really red-white. They are, therefore, the true representatives of the white Libyans of the Egyptian wall-paintings. Blondes occur but seldom; they form not more than 10 per cent. The paper con-

cluded with a summary of the results of an anthropometrical examination of a very large series of prehistoric Egyptian and modern Berber skulls; the result showed the two races to be quite distinct. The expedition has strengthened the case for a culture-connexion between Libya and Egypt, but disproved the theory of common race.—Messrs. J. L. Myres, Garson, and Gowland took part in the discussion.

Nov. 27.—Mr. C. H. Read, President, in the chair.—Prof. E. B. Tylor communicated and commented on a paper by Mr. Paxton Moir on 'Stone Implements in Tasmania.' The paper described the sites on which the stones were found, and the uses to which the various forms were put. The types included knives and hand-axes, which were fairly common, and also a certain number of concave "scrapers" and pointed "groovers." There was, however, considerable difference of opinion as to the propriety of using a very definite terminology, and attributing to the manufacturers very definite intentions, where there was obviously very little command over the materials. Another point which roused some discussion was whether the stones were shaped to fit the hand or selected because they were so shaped, or whether the adaptability of the hand did not account for the readiness with which a "grip" was found. A large number of Tasmanian implements being on the table, the points raised in the discussion received practical illustration.—Among those who spoke were Messrs. H. Balfour and Oldfield Thomas, Dr. Garson, and the President.—There was also exhibited on behalf of Mr. A. Sharpe, H.B.M. Commissioner of Nyassaland, a double clapperless bell, a stone implement of uncertain use, and a wooden stool, supported on a carved female figure with prominent keloid scars and native headdress, from Angoniland.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Nov. 27.—Mr. Hawkesley, V.P., in the chair.—The paper read was 'On Machinery for the Manufacture of Smokeless Powder,' by Mr. O. Guttman.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Nov. 26.—Sir H. Trueman Wood in the chair.—Dr. J. A. Fleming delivered the first of his course of Cantor Lectures on 'Electric Oscillations and Electric Waves.'

Nov. 28.—Prof. E. Ray Lankester in the chair.—A paper on 'Malaria and Mosquitoes' was read by Major Ronald Ross, and was followed by a discussion.

PHYSICAL.—Nov. 23.—Prof. Everett, V.P., in the chair.—A paper on 'A Self-Adjusting Wheatstone's Bridge,' by Messrs. E. H. Griffiths and W. C. D. Whetham, was read by Mr. Whetham.—A paper on 'The Liquefaction of Hydrogen' was read by Dr. M. W. Travers.—Papers on 'The Anomalous Dispersion of Carbon,' by Prof. R. W. Wood, and on 'The Refraction of Sound by Wind,' by Dr. E. H. Barton, were taken as read.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon. Royal Institution, 5.—General Monthly.
- London Institution, 5.—'Varying Ideals of Human Beauty,' Hon. J. Collier.
- Society of Engineers, 7½.—'Recent Practice in Sewage Disposal,' Mr. H. C. H. Shenton.
- Aristotelian, 8.—'The Conceptions of Cause and Real Condition,' Mr. S. H. Hodgson.
- Tues. Society of Arts, 8.—'Electric Oscillations and Electric Waves,' Lecture II, Prof. J. A. Fleming. (Cantor Lectures).
- Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—Discussion on 'Machinery for the Manufacture of Smokeless Powder.' Papers on 'The Signalling on the Waterloo and City Railway' and 'Note on the Signalling of Outlying Siding Connections,' Mr. A. W. Schimper; and 'Signalling on the Liverpool Overhead Railway,' Mr. S. B. Cottrell.
- Zoological, 8½.—'On the Breeding Habits of *Protopterus*, *Symphyla*, and some other West African Fishes,' Mr. J. S. Budgett; 'The Mammals collected during the Scent Expedition to the Malay Peninsula, 1890-1900,' Mr. J. L. Bonhote; 'The Habits and Natural Surroundings of Insects and other Animals observed during the Scent Expedition,' Mr. Nelson Annandale.
- Wed. Archaeological Institute, 4.—'Northamptonshire Wills temp. Henry VIII., the Rev. Dr. Cox; 'Wall Paintings, &c., at Hardham Church, Sussex, and at St. Mary's, Guildford,' Mr. P. M. Johnston.
- Society of Arts, 8.—'Road Traction,' Prof. H. S. Hele-Shaw.
- British Archaeological Association, 8.—'Notes on a Ramble in South Devon,' Mr. T. Cann Hughes.
- Entomological, 8.
- Geological, 8.—'Bajocian and Contiguous Deposits in the Northern Cotswolds: the Main Hill Mass,' Mr. S. S. Buckman; 'On the Corallian Rocks of St. Ives (Hunts) and Elsworth,' Mr. C. B. Wedd; 'The Unconformity of the Upper (Red) Coal Measures to the Middle (Grey) Coal Measures of the Shropshire Coalfields, and its Bearing upon the Extension of the latter under the Triassic Rocks,' Mr. W. J. Clarke.
- Thurs. Royal, 4½.
- London Institution, 6.—'Gillray and his Caricatures,' Canon Benham.
- Linnean, 8.—'Some New Foraminifera from Funnafu,' Mr. C. Chapman; 'British Thirids,' Mr. G. Claridge Druce.
- Chemical, 8.—'Kantaleic Acid,' Mr. A. C. Chapman; 'Ammonium Bromide and the Atomic Weight of Nitrogen,' Mr. A. Scott; 'Interaction between Urethanes and Primary Benzoid Amines,' Dr. A. B. Dixon; 'The Decomposition of Chlorates: Part III. Calcium Chlorate and Silver Chlorate,' Mr. W. H. Sodeas; 'Nitride of Iron,' Mr. G. J. Fowler; 'The Heat of Formation and Constitution of Iron Nitride,' Messrs. G. J. Fowler and P. J. Hartog; 'Relationships of Oxalacetic Acid,' Messrs. H. H. Fenton and H. O. Jones.
- Society of Antiquaries, 8½.
- Fri. Philological, 8.—'Points in the History of Chaucer Criticism,' Miss C. Spurgeon.
- Geologists' Association, 8.—'The Zones of the White Chalk of the English Coast: II. Dorsetshire,' Dr. A. W. Rowe.
- Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—'Dock Gates,' Mr. F. K. Peach. (Students' Meeting.)

Science Gossip.

THE report of the Executive Committee of the General Board of the National Physical Laboratory states that the cost of converting Bushey House into a suitable laboratory will be rather over 14,000*l.* The Treasury will therefore ask Parliament to increase its grant.

A MEMOIR of Lord Lilford, the eminent ornithologist, has been written by his sister, and will be published in a few days by Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co. The volume will include an introduction by the Bishop of London, and will contain a portrait of Lord Lilford, and illustrations by Thorburn and others.

THE death has to be recorded, at the age of sixty-eight, of Mr. C. J. A. Meyer, an enthusiastic student of the Cretaceous rocks, on which he published several valuable papers, the most important being on the cliff-sections of the Devon coast (1874). Mr. Meyer was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1869, and served on the Council during the years 1871-6. His collection, consisting of Cretaceous and Eocene fossils, with some type-specimens of Crustacea, Gasteropoda, Lamellibranchia, and Brachiopoda, has been presented to the Woodwardian Museum, Cambridge.

AN official announcement has been made to the effect that the Viennese Akademie der Wissenschaften intends sending an expedition to Brazil in 1901, which will have for its object the study of the flora of that country. It is to a certain extent a sequel of the expeditions of the early part of this century, which resulted in the publication of that monumental work the 'Flora Brasiliensis.' The botanists accompanying the party are Prof. Dr. Richard von Wettstein, Director of the Botanical Garden of the University, and Dr. Victor Schiffler of Prague.

THE death is announced of Dr. G. Hartlaub, the eminent ornithologist, who died at Bremen in his eighty-seventh year. Among the services he rendered to science was the arrangement of Emin Pasha's zoological collection.

FINE ARTS

NOTES FROM ATHENS.

British School, Athens, November 19, 1900.

THE excavations at Pergamon, practically suspended since 1886, have been resumed on a large scale by the German Institute. Profs. Conze and Dörpfeld began work in September at the great south gate of the upper city, close to the Armenian cemetery; its plan differs unexpectedly from the sketch published last year after a small preliminary excavation, and is a fresh illustration of the wonderful versatility of Greek defensive architecture. A courtyard, 70 ft. square and strengthened by angle-towers, has been built so as to enclose a loop of the great paved road which here zigzags up the hill. The road passes in and then out by gates placed side by side in the same wall of the enclosure. Opposite to them along the east wall is a portico which seems to have contained fountains at which travellers might wash off the dust of the road. Higher up the hill was discovered the Hellenistic agora, a trapezoidal paved area measuring 300 ft. by 160 ft., enclosed by two-storied colonnades, from which open rows of shops like those in the Stoa of Attalos at Athens.

The work lasted more than two months and will be continued in future years. The finds are to remain at Pergamon, where rooms in the newly found agora have been fitted up as a temporary museum.

The French School has this week begun excavations at Tegea, upon the site of the temple of Athena, the pedimental sculptures of which were, it will be remembered, the work of Scopas.

R. C. BOSANQUET.

SALES.

MESSRS. CHRISTIE sold on Saturday two charcoal and chalk drawings by T. Gainsborough, one, representing a young lady with arms folded, for 410 guineas; and the other, a young lady walking in a garden, for 470 guineas. A Dutch Interior, attributed to P. de Hooghe, fetched 420 guineas. A Young Lady in Black Dress, by Sir W. Beechey, brought 330 guineas. A Woody Landscape with Water-Mill, assigned to Hobdema, brought 150 guineas.

Messrs. Robinson & Fisher sold on the 22nd ult. at Willis's Rooms pictures chiefly of the Dutch and early English schools from various sources: Danloux, Portraits of Frederick and Augustus Foster, as Children, 460 guineas. Gainsborough, a Portrait of Mrs. Inchbald, 270 guineas. A Group of three Children and a Dog, one of the children holding a bird's-nest, attributed to Romney, but probably not by him, 161 guineas. Madame Vigée Lebrun, Portrait of Marie Antoinette, 116 guineas.

Fine-Art Gossip.

TO-DAY (Saturday) is appointed for the private view of the winter exhibition of the Society of Painters in Water Colours, to see which the public will be permitted on Monday next.

MR. A. HOPKINS, a well-known member of the Old Society of Painters in Water Colours, has issued invitations to a private view of an exhibition of his drawings, entitled 'Spring-time and Summer,' to be held to-day (Saturday) at the gallery of the Fine-Art Society. The public will be admitted on Monday next.

IN the Continental Gallery, New Bond Street, may be seen thirty-one drawings by Mr. H. Caffieri, representing 'French Fish-Folk across the Channel.' Many of these works are really pretty, nicely coloured, and harmonious in tone. The best of them is the property of the Princess of Wales, and entitled 'On the Pier,' and in it the qualities we have named are distinctly prevalent; 'Silver Mists,' a marine view, is tender and homogeneous, qualities water-colour drawings do not always excel in; 'The Close of Day' is a finely studied and true effect. Besides these we recommend to lovers of such modest art as Mr. Caffieri's 'Mussel Gatherer,' 'Mary, the Maid of the Inn,' 'The Busy Quay, Boulogne,' an animated scene, with sparkling colours, and 'The Sunny Shrimping Season.'—Mrs. A. Copping has on view at 33, Haymarket a number of water-colour drawings of exceptional merit, but evincing no very great ambition, and mostly lacking in clearness, firmness of touch, and purity of colour. The lady has an unusually fine and sympathetic perception of the effects of light, the multifarious grades and hues of the atmosphere at sunset, during sober evenings, misty weather, and gay moonlight. We like best 'The very Houses seem'd Asleep' (No. 6), a twilight picture of Bosham; 'Pear Blossoms' (9); 'From the Stone Pier, Folkestone' (11); 'High Tide, Bosham' (23); 'The Quay, Bosham' (24); 'A Fiery Sunset' (53); 'A Tidal Road' (64); 'High Stakes' (80); and 'The Old Boathouse' (99). The remainder of the hundred and sixty drawings need trouble no one, seeing that Mrs. Copping has not taken the trouble to finish them.

It is reported that a professor of Ratisbon, M. A. Weber, has discovered at Lisbon a picture by Dürer, which has been until now unnoticed as his. It is a half-length figure of St. Jerome reading. If there is any foundation for the report to this effect we shall, doubtless, soon have the confirmation of artistic opinions as to the genuineness, value, and condition of the painting.

It has been arranged, so the French papers allege, that the Salon of next year will be held in that part of the new Grand Palais, Paris,

which ranges (*qui longe*) with the Avenue Alexandre III., while the exhibition of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts will appear in the galleries at the side of the Avenue d'Antin. If this arrangement is carried out the much-discussed question whether or not the latter body will continue to exist is, for the time at least, settled.

MESSES. SOTHEY will hold on Monday week a sale of bindings by the Guild of Women-Binders and the Hampstead Bindery. They have the merit of originality and showiness, and they demonstrate that bookbinding is not an exclusive gift of the mere male creature. The series was awarded a silver medal at the Paris Exhibition.—Mr. Baggeley has been showing this week at Mr. Bain's in the Haymarket the bindings which he exhibited at the Exhibition, and which attracted much notice from French experts as well as some others.

THE report on the excavations in the neighbourhood of the Main proves that the labours of the Limes Commission have been rewarded, for the site of six of the Roman forts which protected the frontier in this district has now been determined. Of exceptional interest are the river fortifications laid bare at Stockstadt, not only because they are unique of their kind in Germany, but also because their position proves that the Main must have followed a more westerly course during the Roman period than it does now.

THE death of the well-known genre painter Prof. Anton Seitz is announced from Munich.

MUSIC

THE WEEK.

BRIXTON THEATRE.—Goldmark's 'Cricket on the Hearth.'
QUEEN'S HALL.—Signor Busoni's Pianoforte Recital.
Highbury Athenæum.—Mr. Frederick Corder's 'Sword of Argantyr.'

YESTERDAY week Goldmark's 'Cricket on the Hearth' was performed at Brixton Theatre by the Carl Rosa Company, and for the first time in England. The work was produced four years ago at Vienna, and seeing that the libretto is based on one of Dickens's familiar tales, and that the opera contains many elements of popularity, it is strange that its arrival in this country should have been so long delayed. The first act, we must confess, is dull; so, at least, it appeared on first hearing. The second and third acts, on the other hand, are attractive. There is plenty of fun on the stage, quiet homely touches preventing monotony of merriment. The music is bright and clever; and in John Peerybingle's soliloquy in the second act there is dramatic power, and also pathos. The music here seems too serious for the situation. The audience, of course, follows the meaning of Dot's innocent plot. John, however, is seriously troubled, and believes his home destroyed and his honour lost; hence the tragic mood of the music is correct. The composer's score is, in many ways, interesting; he has a strong feeling for melody, for colour, and he works up his material with great ability. There is, however, a lack of homogeneity of style. There are traces, and, at times, strong ones, of the influence of many and very different composers. The performance was good. Madame Aurelia Revy (Dot) and Messrs. Arthur Deane (John Peerybingle) and Isidore Marcol (Tackleton) deserve special praise. Mr. Eugene Goossens again conducted efficiently.

Signor Busoni gave a pianoforte recital at Queen's Hall on Tuesday afternoon which will rank as one of the most memorable events of the season. Of clever, nay, eminent pianists, there is no lack, but a few stand, as it were, by themselves on a higher plane; among such, we have D'Albert, Paderewski, Pachmann, and Rosenthal, and to these must be added Busoni. All are great, but each has his special gifts. A study of their different merits, methods, and even mannerisms would be, undoubtedly, interesting. For the moment, however, Busoni alone concerns us. He commenced with Bach's Organ Toccata in c, of which he gave a most intelligent and brilliant performance. His reading of Beethoven's Sonata in F minor did not altogether satisfy us. The first movement was petulant rather than impassioned, and the Andante lacked true simplicity. The Finale, however, was splendidly interpreted. In the Chopin Sonata in B minor the pianist displayed fine technique, while the reading of the music was above all praise. The Allegro was rendered with power, the Scherzo played with soft, most delicate touch, the slow movement sung with tenderness and refinement, and the Finale dashed off with immense brilliancy and daring. The pianist also played Liszt's 'Tarantelle de La Muette de Portici,' and as an encore the famous 'Mazeppa' Etude, astonishing, yet at the same time charming, his hearers. The mere technique was simply superb, but the beauty and gradation of tone and the poetical conception of the music were marked features; and further, in spite of difficulties which only the boldest would care to face, virtuosity still remained only a means. If Liszt's pianoforte music were always thus interpreted we should listen to it with far more pleasure than we generally do.

Mr. Frederick Corder's 'Sword of Argantyr,' a dramatic cantata produced at the Leeds Festival of 1889, was performed—and, as announced, for the first time in London—by the Highbury Philharmonic Society at the Athenæum, Highbury New Park, on Tuesday evening. The book, based on a Northern legend, is from the pen of the composer, and although the version in which the shepherd falls in love with the heroine Hervor is not dramatically strong, still it gives opportunity for a pleasing tenor solo and a really fine love duet. In the first scene there are some picturesque choruses for male and for female voices. In scene iii. there is a highly dramatic solo "Awake, Argantyr," and the last scene winds up with a broad, dignified chorus. The work as a whole is clever and effective, though some of the numbers are forced, and at moments even ugly. It contains, however, sufficient good writing to justify its revival. The performance, under the spirited direction of Mr. G. H. Betjemann, was exceedingly good. The soloists were Miss Ethel Wood and Messrs. Ben Davies, Dan Price, and Henry Rojas. The programme concluded with Frederick Clay's 'Lalla Rookh.' Between the parts the choir sang "Brother, thou art gone before us," in memory of Sir Arthur Sullivan.

THE LATE SIR A. SULLIVAN.

Cl. d'eau de Bellefontaine, Biarritz (Basses Pyrénées), November 26, 1900.

THE discussion which has been raised about the European reputation of Sir Arthur Sullivan as a musician reminds me of a little incident which occurred last year in this south-western corner of France. Sir Arthur spent part of the spring here, charming every one he met. He told me he would like to touch the fine organ in the Cathedral of Bayonne, so I communicated his wish to the Bishop, who wrote that the organist would be honoured to wait upon "l'illustre maître anglais." Poor Sullivan did not want to be treated as an illustrious master. He wanted to have the keys of the tribune, to explore the organ himself and try all the stops. So on our way to Bayonne I consoled him by saying that perhaps the organist would be a characteristic type of provincial musician, Basque or Béarnais, learned in local canticles such as the peasants sing at the Fête des Rois or the Assumption. But on arriving we were met in the nave by a tall, blue-spectacled figure who did not look like a Méridional, and whose French accent was not that of Basse Navarre. Two minutes later the organist was wreathing Sir Arthur with voluble German compliments, which he was modestly deprecating, with equal fluency, in the same language. The organist was an Alsatian of Mulhouse. He had studied at Leipzig in the sixties after Sullivan had gone, leaving the reputation of a young genius; so with tears in his eyes he expressed his joy at seeing the great glory of the Conservatorium, whose career musical Germany had followed with pride. That afternoon we heard no Cantiques Basques, such as the Pyrenean shepherds sing, but for an hour Sullivan filled the great empty cathedral with magnificent melody, such as has rarely been heard beneath the lofty roof since the Plantagenets fixed on its vault the leopards of England.

J. E. C. BODLEY.

Musical Gossip.

THE funeral rites of Sir Arthur Sullivan were solemnized on Tuesday at St. James's Chapel, also at St. Paul's, where his body is buried. Opinions must differ as to the merit of those operas on which rests his fame. While Chopin's Funeral March was being played at St. Paul's we were reminded of one who was great in small things. And in this respect—no other comparison is possible between two men so different in character, so different in aim and achievement—may not the same be said of Sullivan? What the latter did was well done; whether he could have done better is a speculative question. Criticism is comparison, and according to the standard so will be the judgment. If the Sullivan comic operas be compared with those of Offenbach and Hervé, then our British composer takes high rank. If, on the other hand, they be compared with those of Auber, the master of comic opera, then he will be held in less esteem. But the one standard is just, the other unjust; the libretto frames of Sir Arthur's operas did not admit of tone-pictures such as those of the French composer.

SIR GEORGE C. MARTIN, organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, is in possession of a completed score of a Thanksgiving 'Te Deum,' specially written some months ago by Sir Arthur Sullivan for performance on the termination of the war in South Africa.

MR. ARNOLD DOLMETSCH gave the first concert of his winter series last Thursday week. There were interesting specimens of lute music of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the latter being represented by a Suite from Thomas Mace's 'Musick's Monument.' Then there was Kuhnau's 'The Marriage of Jacob,' an early specimen of programme music, supposed by Spitta to have served Bach as a model for a

curious sonata which he wrote for clavier. The programme contained also some striking pieces for viola da gamba by Forqueray *le père* and delightful concerted music attributed to Bach, though possibly only copied by him.

MR. TOVEY'S fourth and last concert took place last Thursday week. We record a satisfactory performance of a Sonata by Mr. Tovey for pianoforte and violin, excellently rendered by the composer and the talented Irish violinist Miss Maud MacCarthy. The latter was also heard to great advantage in a lovely Mozart Adagio. The programme included Bach's cantata "Ich bin vergnügt" and the aria "Ruhet hie," both for soprano solo, with oboe d'amore and violin *obbligati*. They were admirably interpreted by Miss Fillunger, the *obbligati* parts being in the safe hands of Mr. Malsch and Miss Maud MacCarthy. Once again we praise Mr. Tovey for thus bringing noble works of Bach to a hearing. This revival has been a marked and interesting feature of his concerts. The programme concluded with the 'Kreutzer' Sonata.

MISS ISABEL HEARNE sang with refinement at her recital at the Steinway Hall last Friday week. Her programme included songs by Hugo Wolf and Richard Strauss, the two most prominent names among modern German composers. Madame Marchesi and Herr van Rooy have introduced some of their songs, and now Miss Hearne has brought forward further specimens. They were all interesting, especially those of Wolf, which seemed to us the more spontaneous of the two sets. Miss Hearne sang various songs of her own composition, which show much thought and feeling, but are of unequal merit. Her setting of Heine's well-known poem 'Der alte König' is exceedingly quaint. Mr. Gustav Ernest presided ably at the pianoforte.

DVOŘÁK'S Quartet in F, Op. 96, was well performed on Saturday at the Popular Concert. The work, based on negro melodies, is certainly clever, but the melodic material, characteristic though it be, lacks nobility. The Lento, however, is beautifully written; by the slow tempo the sharp points of negro melody are softened down. The performers were Messrs. Arbos, Haydn Inwards, Gibson, and Paul Ludwig. Miss Evelyn Stuart was the pianist, but her rendering of two Brahms solos, neat as to technique, was not particularly interesting. Miss Muriel Foster sang Brahms's "Von ewiger Liebe" remarkably well.

MISS MARGUERITE ELZY gave a pianoforte recital at St. James's Hall on Monday afternoon. Her programme commenced with Beethoven's Sonata in c minor, Op. 111. The first movement lacked breadth, and the second poetry; moreover, in the latter the *tempi* of the variations were open to exception. The young lady has, however, excellent technique, and with time and experience she may accomplish great things. Her performance of Liszt's Sonata in B minor was most praiseworthy. She attacked the formidable difficulties with courage and success. Her reading, too, of the music was intelligent. She was also heard to advantage in pieces by Chopin and more modern composers, and was encored for her finished rendering of an effective Etude by Mr. Oscar Beringer.

MR. J. A. FULLER-MATLAND commenced a series of three lectures on 'The Development of Pianoforte Technique in the Nineteenth Century' at the Royal Academy of Music on Wednesday afternoon. The second and third will take place on December 5th and 12th. The first was original and highly interesting, and we hope to see a larger audience at the next, when the lecturer will discuss the technique of two important composers for the pianoforte, viz., Schumann and Chopin.

SPACE prevents detailed notice of the second Symphony Concert at Queen's Hall, at which

Signor Busoni gave a most poetical rendering of Beethoven's Concerto in G, introducing the composer's own cadences; of Mr. Hugo Kupfer-schmid's Orchestral Concert at St. James's Hall on Monday evening, when he performed the Mendelssohn and Beethoven Violin Concertos with clear technique and marked intelligence; of Herr Martin Knützen's Orchestral Concert on Tuesday, when he gave a good account of himself in Beethoven's E flat Concerto; of the interesting recital by those excellent artists Messrs. B. Schönberger and Hugo Heinz; and of the pianoforte recital at Queen's Small Hall of Miss Grace Ellis, who is a careful and promising pianist. The singing of Miss Edith Miller in French, German, and Italian songs deserves high praise.

THE second series of Chamber Music Concerts at the Crystal Palace will commence on Monday, the second and third concerts taking place on February 4th and March 11th. A third series is also announced for the autumn of 1901. Miss Cecilia Gates is musical director.

ON Sundays in Advent a four-part Mass by Tallis will be sung at High Mass at the Brompton Oratory. The work has been arranged by Mr. R. R. Terry, choirmaster of St. Gregory College, Downside, from a MS. in the British Museum. It was first performed at Downside last Lent, but has never been heard in London.

A FESTIVAL will be held at Bishop Auckland on December 4th and 5th to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Auckland Musical Society. On the first day the 'Messiah' will be performed, and on the second Mr. Coleridge-Taylor will conduct his 'Hiawatha' Cantata. Mr. Kilburn is the enterprising conductor of the society.

By special invitation of the President and Council of the Royal Society of British Artists, a pianoforte recital will be given in the galleries of the Society to-day, at three o'clock, under the direction of Mr. Tobias Matthay, by some of his present Royal Academy and private pupils. Visitors to the galleries will be invited to remain.

AT Messrs. Sotheby's were sold last week the autograph of Beethoven's Bagatellen, Op. 126, for 64*l.*; also fifteen letters from Mendelssohn to Thomas Attwood for 41*l.* 7*s.*

HEINRICH PORGES, one of Wagner's faithful adherents from the earliest Bayreuth days, died suddenly at Munich on November 17th, having on the previous evening conducted the final rehearsal of Liszt's 'Christus,' which was to be performed on the following day. The cause of Wagner, having triumphed, will not suffer through the death of Porges, but his loss will be felt at Munich, in the musical life of which he took an active part. In 1871 he was appointed royal Musikdirektor, and in 1886 he founded the Porges Gesangverein.

THE *Musikalisches Wochenblatt* of November 22nd states that M. Modest Tchaikowsky will shortly publish a biography of his brother, the great composer. His principal material is said to have been drawn from 5,000 letters written by Tchaikowsky himself, and 7,000 addressed to him.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

SUN.	Sunday Society's Concert, 3.30; Sunday League, 7, Queen's Hall.
MON.	Madame Steinhauser's Vocal Recital, 3, Steinway Hall.
—	Giulia Ravogli's Vocal Recital, 8, St. James's Hall.
—	Annual Ballad Concert, 8, Agricultural Hall.
—	Chamber Music Concert, 8.30, Crystal Palace.
TUE.	Herr Martin Knützen and M. Auguste Leroy, 3, St. James's Hall.
—	Madame Cleaver's Vocal Recital, 8, St. James's Hall.
WED.	Miss Maude Kilhl's Pianoforte Recital, 3, St. James's Hall.
—	Miss Ethel Pender-Gudlip's Vocal and Instrumental Recital, 8, Queen's Hall.
—	Cardus Club Concert, 8.30, St. James's Hall.
THURS.	Royal Choral Society ('Judas Macabreus'), 8, Albert Hall.
SAT.	Saturday Popular Concert, 3, St. James's Hall.
—	Symphony Concert, 3, Queen's Hall.

DRAMA

THE WEEK.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—'The Wisdom of the Wise,' a Comedy in Three Acts. By John Oliver Hobbes.
HAYMARKET.—'The Second in Command,' a Comedy in Four Acts. By Robert Marshall.

THE new piece at the St. James's has been treated with scant courtesy. Let it be granted that 'The Wisdom of the Wise' is weak in construction, that it is colourless in regard to characterization, and diffuse in dialogue. It is none the less prettily, if timidly, conceived, and its language is natural, unrestrained, and not altogether wanting in a kind of wit, which, however, appeals only to a limited section of the public. Considering its western situation, the St. James's seems to attract a singularly rowdy public, and the world which accorded so inhospitable a reception to the 'Guy Domville' of Mr. Henry James, an American author of eminent powers, must have been the same which received with insult the author of 'The Wisdom of the Wise.' Plot, it is known, is not Mrs. Craigie's forte, and the story of her new play is as thin as it can well be. Its action is, moreover, forced. It is unlikely that an unmarried woman who is in love with one man will receive alone in her room after midnight the visit of a second; it is improbable that a great nobleman, loyal as the day and happily married, would propose an assignation of the sort, and it is even more unlikely that he would allow himself to be overheard in so doing. It sounds commonplace to say that a man who respects himself, his wife, or the woman he seeks to benefit will not gratuitously compromise any of the three. Only in melodrama can a strong situation be obtained without the existence of passion or the purpose of misconduct. A man therein may be the victim of accident, mistake, or circumstance. Some ingenuity is, however, requisite to make a man of blameless life incur the appearance of conjugal infidelity. A score devices have been employed since the days of 'East Lynne,' but they are unsatisfactory makeshifts. All that Mrs. Craigie has done successfully is to write some easy and natural, though not particularly stimulating, dialogue of people of the world, and introduce a few epigrams which, as a rule, passed over the heads of the public. Mr. Alexander presented the hero with the playful provocation of which he is a master. Miss Fay Davis was really a little

Too bright and good
For human nature's daily food;

and Misses Granville, Halstan, and Opp, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Wilfred Draycott, and Mr. Elwood filled the chief characters adequately enough. The play is devoid of offence. Its *mise en scène* is admirable.

Capt. Marshall's military comedy at the Haymarket is a shapely piece of work. It has faults of construction, and shows some straining after wit. It is, however, frankly amusing and eminently sympathetic, and bound to take a strong hold upon the public. Add to this that it is wholesome and cleanly throughout, and that while presenting vivid and faithful pictures of military life it is free from any *ad captandum* appeal to popular sentiment, and it will be clear that it is a work of genuine merit. Though he may already be credited with accomplish-

ment, Capt. Marshall has not yet felt his feet—or shall we say learnt the strength of his wings? In his earlier plays he showed the influence of Mr. Gilbert, in the later we trace that of Robertson. We acquit Capt. Marshall of any imitation, direct or casual, of either model. The influence of Robertson on him is, however, as sensible as that of Milton on Keats. Some day, and sooner rather than later, he will produce work all his own, and will by so doing add one more to the small stock of capable dramatists of which our country can boast. From the outset his work evinced dramatic aptitude. 'The Second in Command' shows conception and characterization. It is carefully wrought, moreover, and errs only in over-elaboration, which is easily remedied, and an occasional sense of effort, which, in view of the results obtained, is easily forgiven. For the rest, it is fresh, healthy, pure, and agreeable, qualities which, in these later days, we have ceased to expect. Not a trace is there of the squalor, moral or physical, which it is the aim of our newly established schools of drama to cultivate. The characters are eminently natural and human, and though the hero lapses into disloyalty, his offence is one of those perjuries at which "they say Jove laughs." He may be regarded, to some extent, as a creation, his meekness and long-suffering, and his keen sense of his own shortcomings, giving him a strong hold upon our affection. This part was admirably played by Mr. Maude, who vindicated his right to be regarded as a serious, as distinguished from an eccentric comedian. Nothing that he has previously done exhibits an equal amount of earnestness and tenderness. In one scene only did we wish that his recovery from his sorrows had been less complete and that his openly expressed amusement had been a little less frank. The grin should have been on the wrong side of the face. The performance is, however, masterly. A great advance was made by Miss Sibyl—the playbill insists on miscalling her Sybil—Carlisle, who, in addition to the prettiness and tenderness with which she has always been credited, rose to intensity. It is long since we have seen anything more effective than her manner when she finds herself discarded by the man whose love is her most precious possession. Mr. Allan Aynesworth played with breezy sincerity the part of Col. Anstruther, the first in command; and effective presentations were given by Mr. A. Vane-Tempest, Miss Muriel Beaumont, Miss Fanny Coleman, and others. A pleasant and touching piece was received with a warmth that shows how glad the public is to "welcome home again discarded faith."

The Chiswick Shakespeare. Edited by John Dennis, and illustrated by Byam Shaw. (Bell & Sons.)—We have to acknowledge since our first notice of this edition the receipt from time to time of additional volumes. Their number now amounts to sixteen, and they include seven of the comedies, two of the historical plays, and seven of the tragedies. The progress of the work has been steady, though not rapid, and some considerable time must yet elapse before its completion.

Dramatic Essay.

ON the anniversary of the production of 'A Message from Mars,' Mr. Hawtrey announced at the Avenue that he had for production next year an adaptation of 'The Light that Failed,' by Rudyard Kipling, and a second of 'The Man from Blankley's,' by George Fleming.

'THE PLOT OF HIS STORY,' by Mrs. Oscar Beringer, which constitutes the *lever de rideau* at the St. James's, deals with a disagreeable theme. It shows a husband so negligent of home duties and so wrapped up in the *dénoûment* of a novel he is writing that he drives his wife into an elopement, which he may be said to have devised for her benefit. Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Beringer played the principal parts, and were supported by Mr. Arthur Elwood and Mr. G. P. Hawtrey.

THE Shakespearian performances at the Court have been abandoned, the excuse advanced being the continued indisposition of Mr. Vanderfelt.

A PLAY by Mr. Robert Ganthony, the author of 'A Message from Mars,' entitled 'The Ring Mistress,' is to be produced by Miss Kate Phillips shortly before Christmas at the Lyric Theatre, and to be given at a series of afternoon performances.

MR. BENSON'S afternoon representations of Shakspeare at the Comedy Theatre will begin on the 19th inst. with 'The Merry Wives of Windsor.'

MR. MARTIN HARVEY will have a spring season in London, in the course of which he will produce an adaptation by Mr. Charles Hannan of Mr. Marion Crawford's 'A Cigarette Maker's Romance,' a drama by Mr. Freeman Wills, and a play by Miss Emma F. Brooke, called 'A Superfluous Woman.'

'CHURCH AND STAGE' is the title of a one-act piece, by Mr. Malcolm Watson, which Mr. Arthur Boucher will shortly produce at the Garrick as a prelude to 'The Wedding Guest.'

'RENAISSANCE,' by Herr von Schöthan and Herr F. Koppel-Ellfeld, has been given by the German company at the Comedy.

THE edition of Molière in the "Grands Écrivains de la France" series is at length complete, after having been in hand twenty-seven years. It was commenced in 1873 under the editorship of Eugène Despois, who died in 1878; the next editor, Paul Mesnard, after seeing several volumes through the press, also died before the edition was finished; M. Arthur Desfeuilles published the eleventh volume in 1893; and now the twelfth and thirteenth volumes, with which the edition is completed, appear under the charge of MM. Arthur and Paul Desfeuilles.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A. B. W.—A. E. C.—E. M.—W. M. D.—E. H.—received.
R. F.—We cannot undertake to answer such questions.
E. M.—W. M. D.—E. M. H.—Not suitable for us.
No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

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Editorial Communications should be addressed to "The Editor"—Advertisements and business Letters to "The Publisher"—at the Office, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.
Printed by JOHN EDWARD FRANCIS, Athenæum Press, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C., and Published by JOHN C. FRANCIS at Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.
Agents for Scotland, Messrs. Bell & Balfour and Mr. John Kenzie, Edinburgh.—Saturday, December 1, 1900.